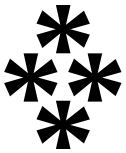
Edward McGuire

BOTANIC GARDENS

for
2 PIANOS 4 PLAYERS

COMMISSIONED BY RICHARD DEERING
for premiere by Grimoire
at University of Glasgow
March 10th 2016



BOTANIC GARDENS

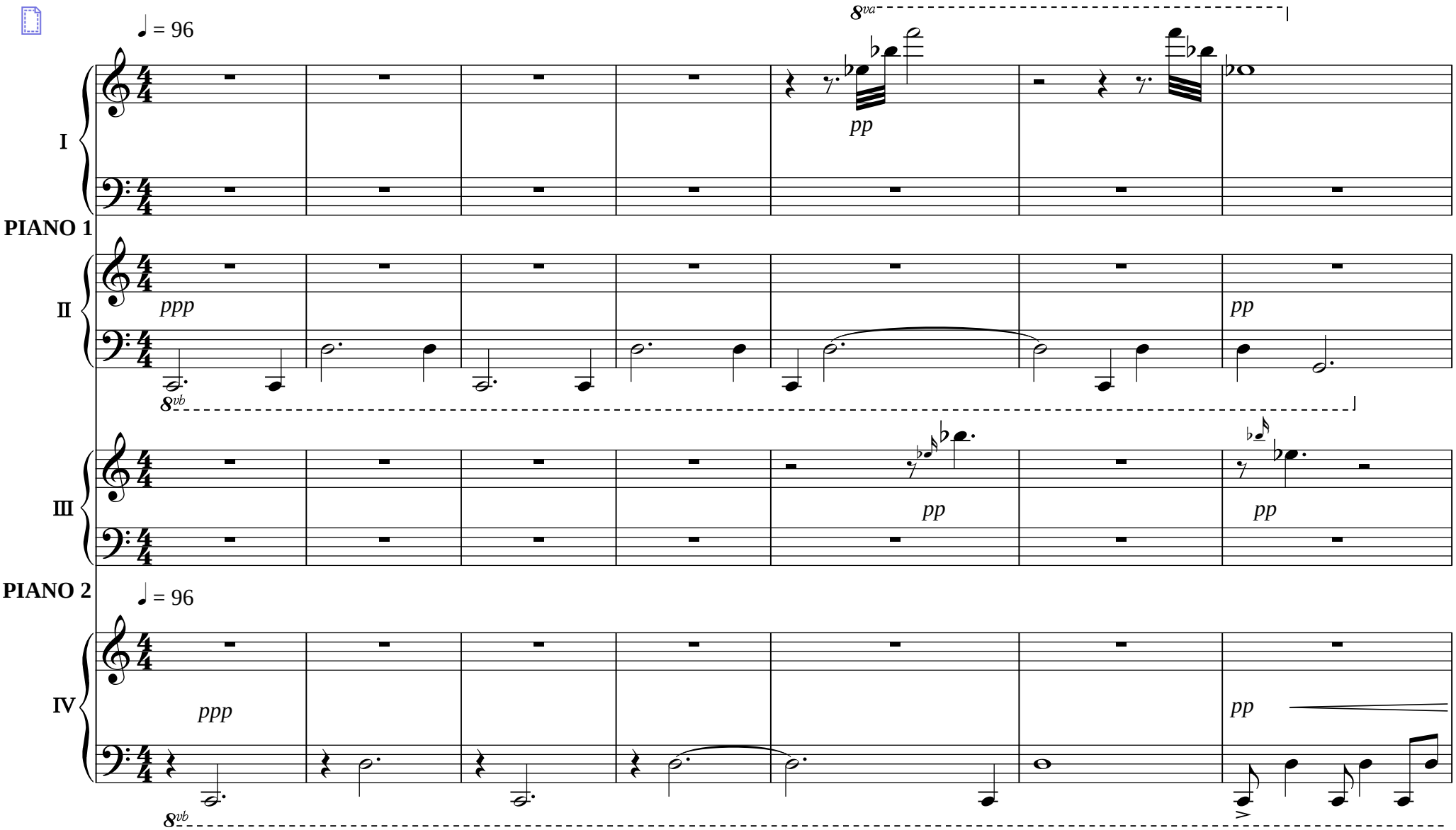
This music is inspired by Glasgow's Botanic Gardens, anticipating their 200th anniversary in 2017. I take a stroll there whenever possible. This continuous sequence uses a variety of musical intervals to achieve its spectrum of colours. Fifths, fourths, then thirds, wholetones and semitones mark its 6 sections:
Metasequoia; Arid Zone; Humid Tropics; Spicy & Economic; Meeting Old Friends; Kibble Palace Sunset
The *Metasequoia* tree has a distinctive wide base that rises to a fine point (the whole keyboard is used to suggest this); it was thought to be just a fossil (discovered in Japan) until a living specimen was found in China in 1941. The *Arid Zone* introduces a dry staccato - and remembers James Iliff, my composition teacher, who was an expert on cacti. The interval of a third is used with a repeating pulse of seven beats. *Humid Tropics* is suitably lush while the semitone activity of *Spicy & Economic* reminds us of the regions exploited for their labour and productivity. The pleasant surprise of crossing paths with familiar faces in the gardens is represented in *Meeting Old Friends*; Jimmy Cloughley and his fellow Upper Clydeside Shipbuilders work-in veterans are represented here in the four overlapping voices of a short fugato section. The previously widely separated intervals of the opening theme are then brought close together in a melodic line. The vision of the newly restored glasshouse, the *Kibble Palace*, fades away on the final chords.

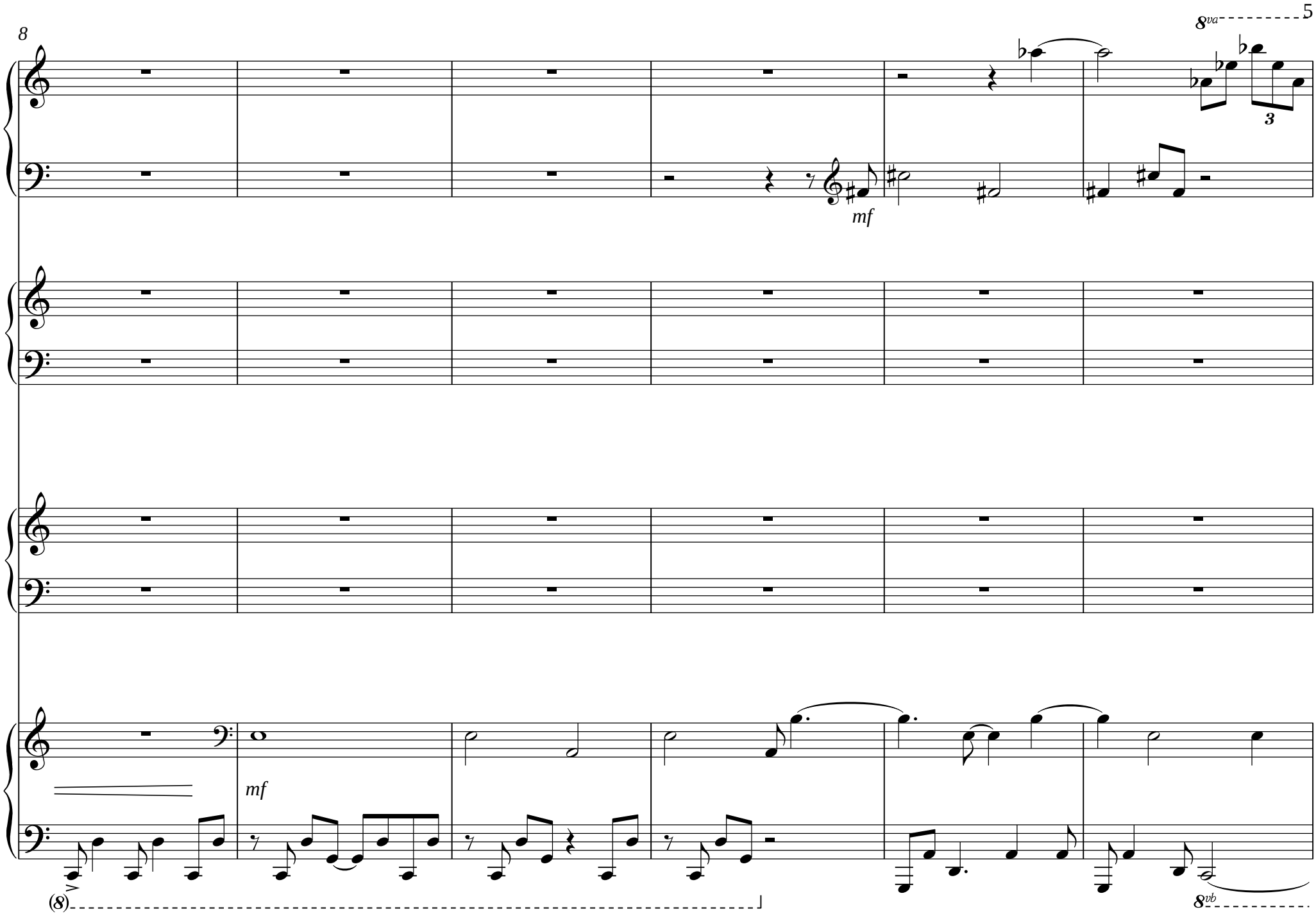
Eddie McGuire
February 2016

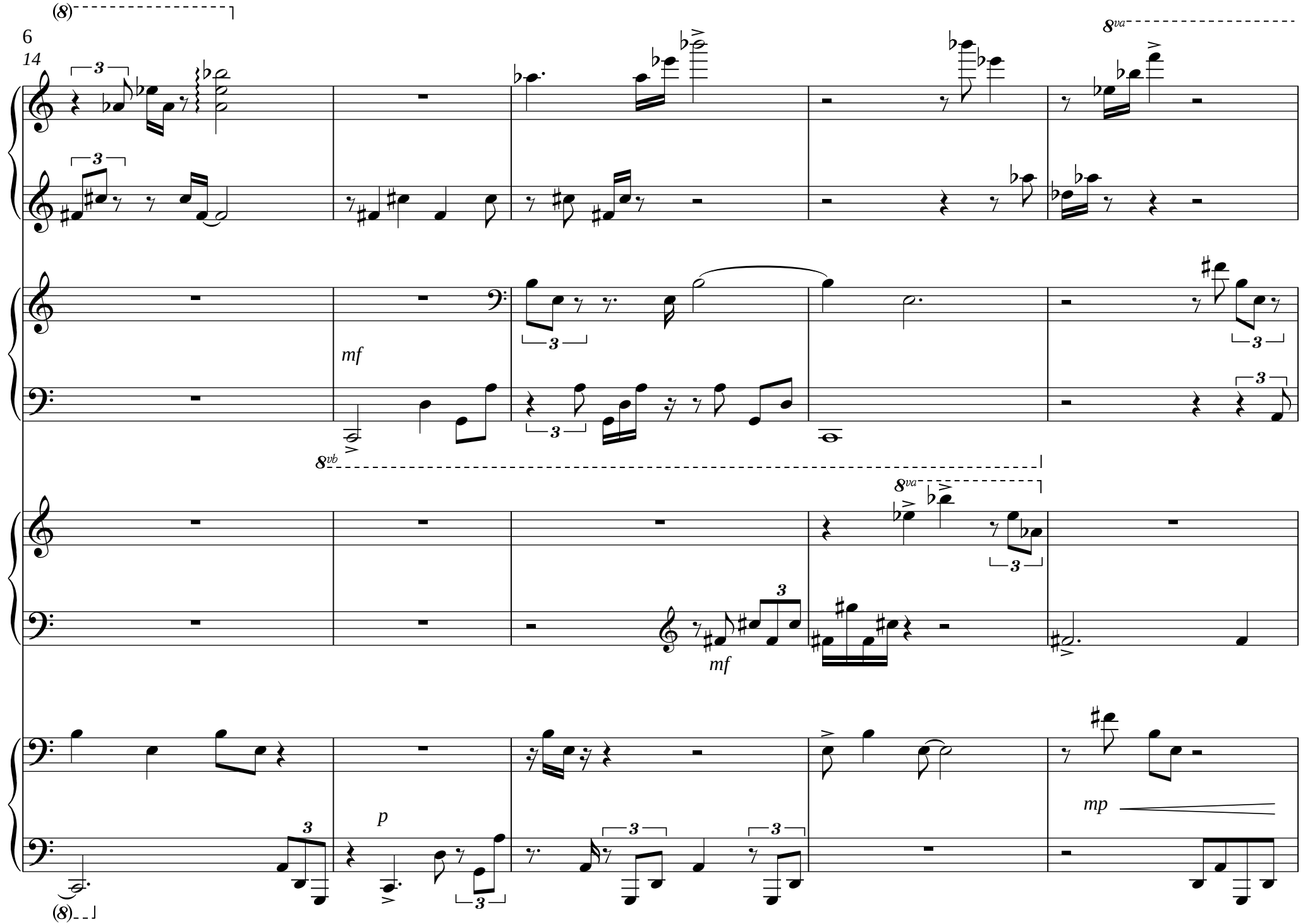
BOTANIC GARDENS

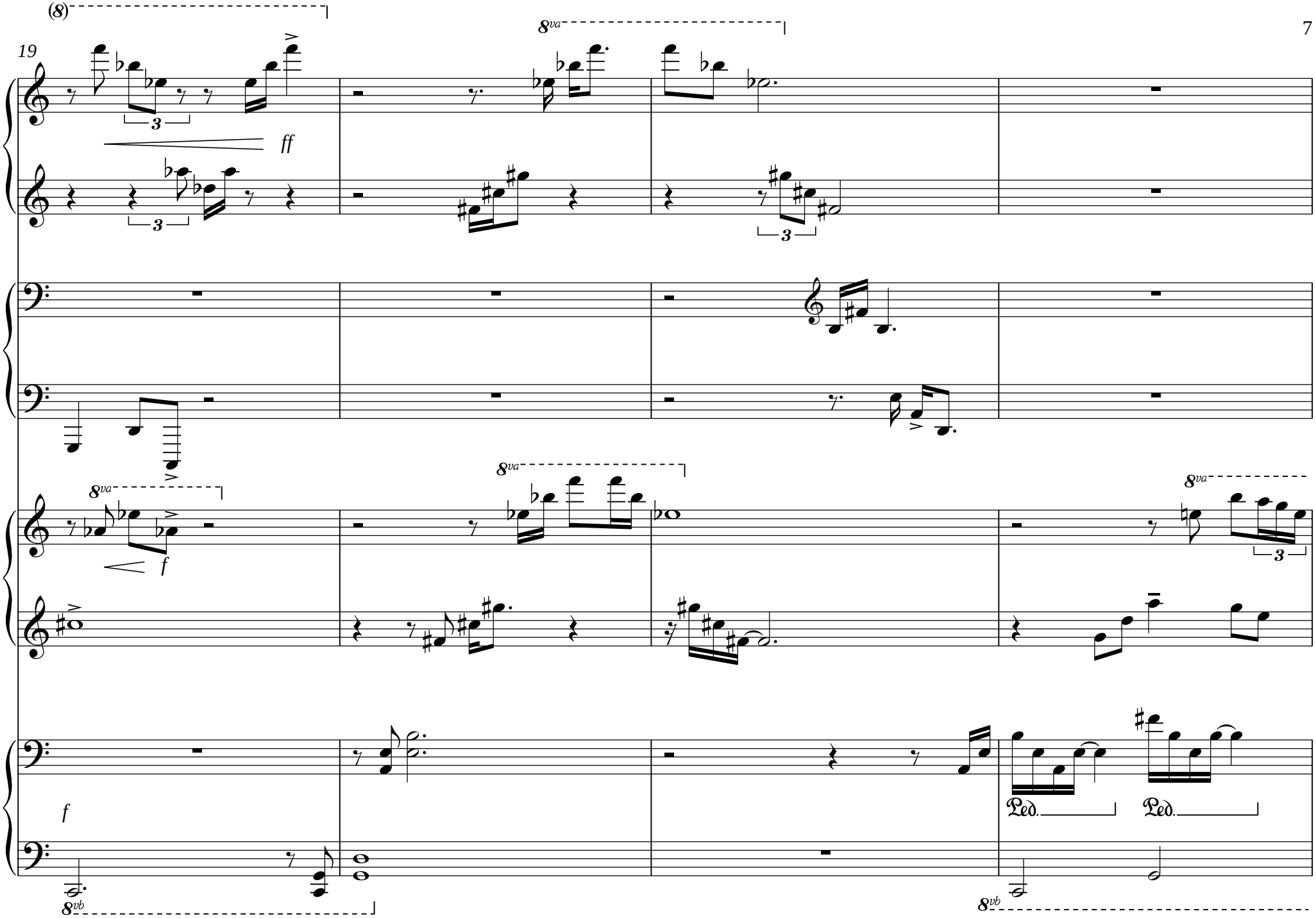
1. Metasequoia

Edward McGuire




8
5
8va
3
mf
mf
(8)
8vb


6
14
(8)
8va
mf
8vb
8va
mf
p
mp
(8)


19
(8)
8va
ff
8va
f
8va
8va
f
Ped.
Ped.
8vb
8vb

23

8va

mf

3

3

p

(8)

p

senza ped.

Ped.

Ped.

senza ped.

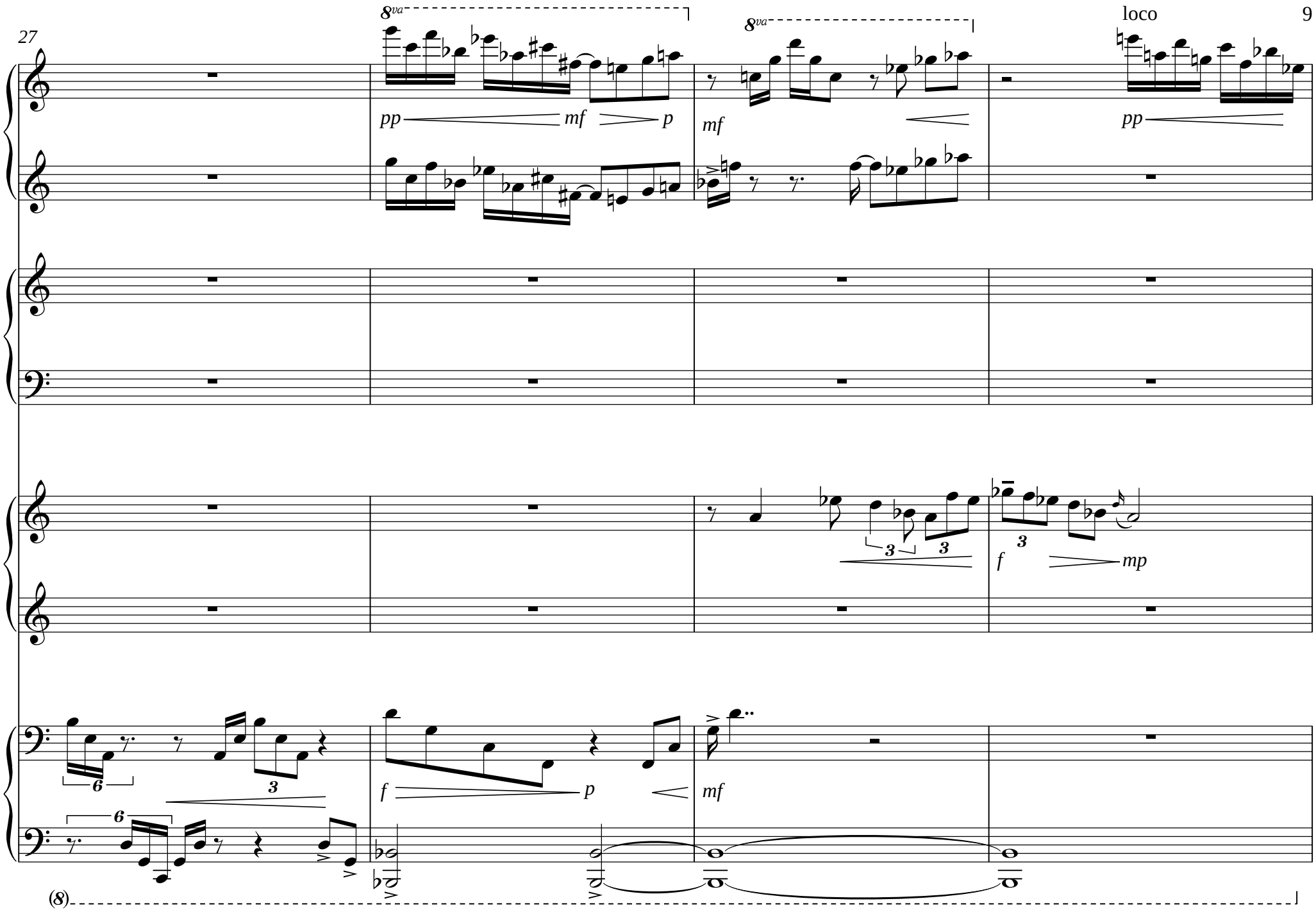
3

p

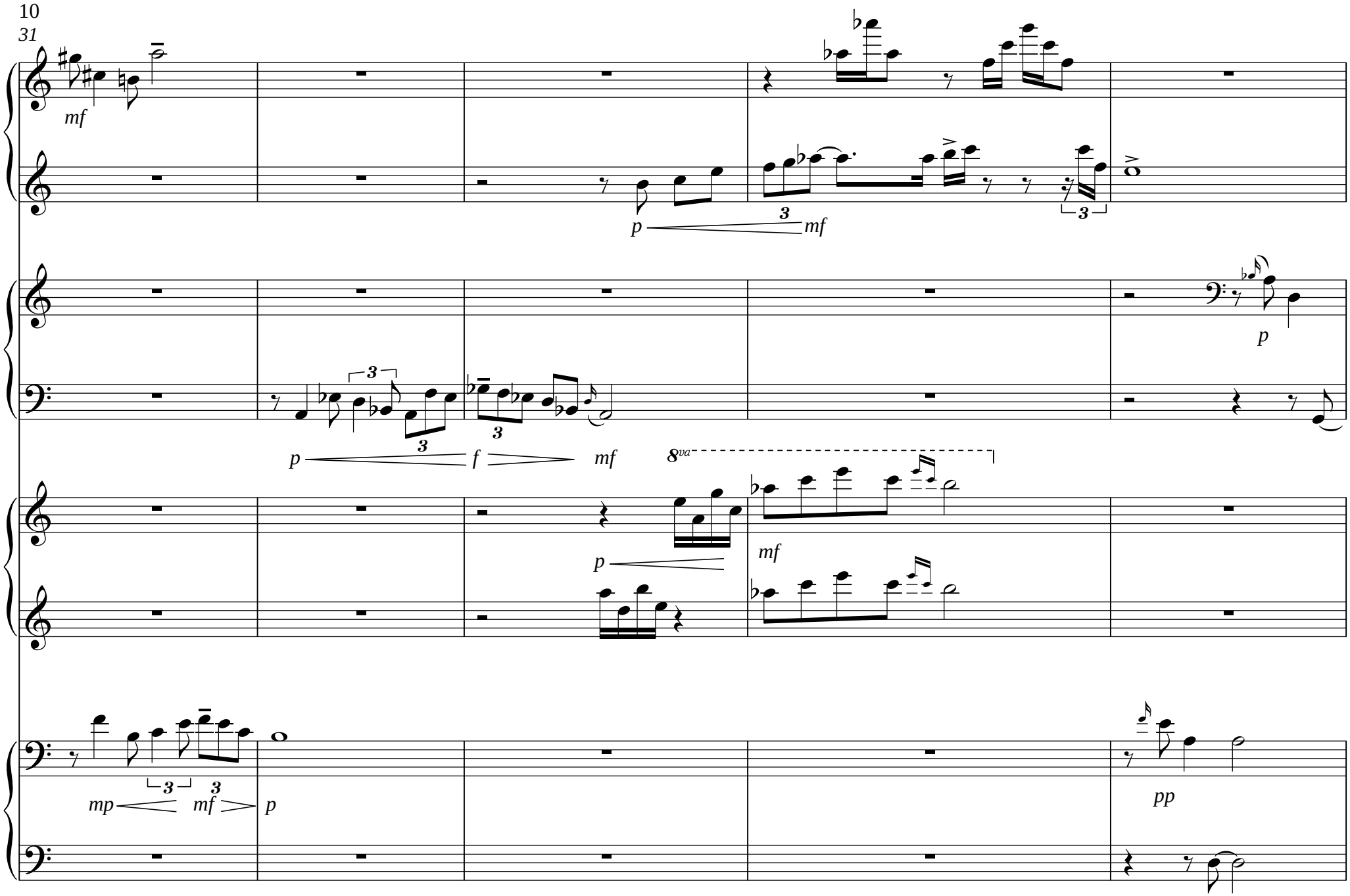
6

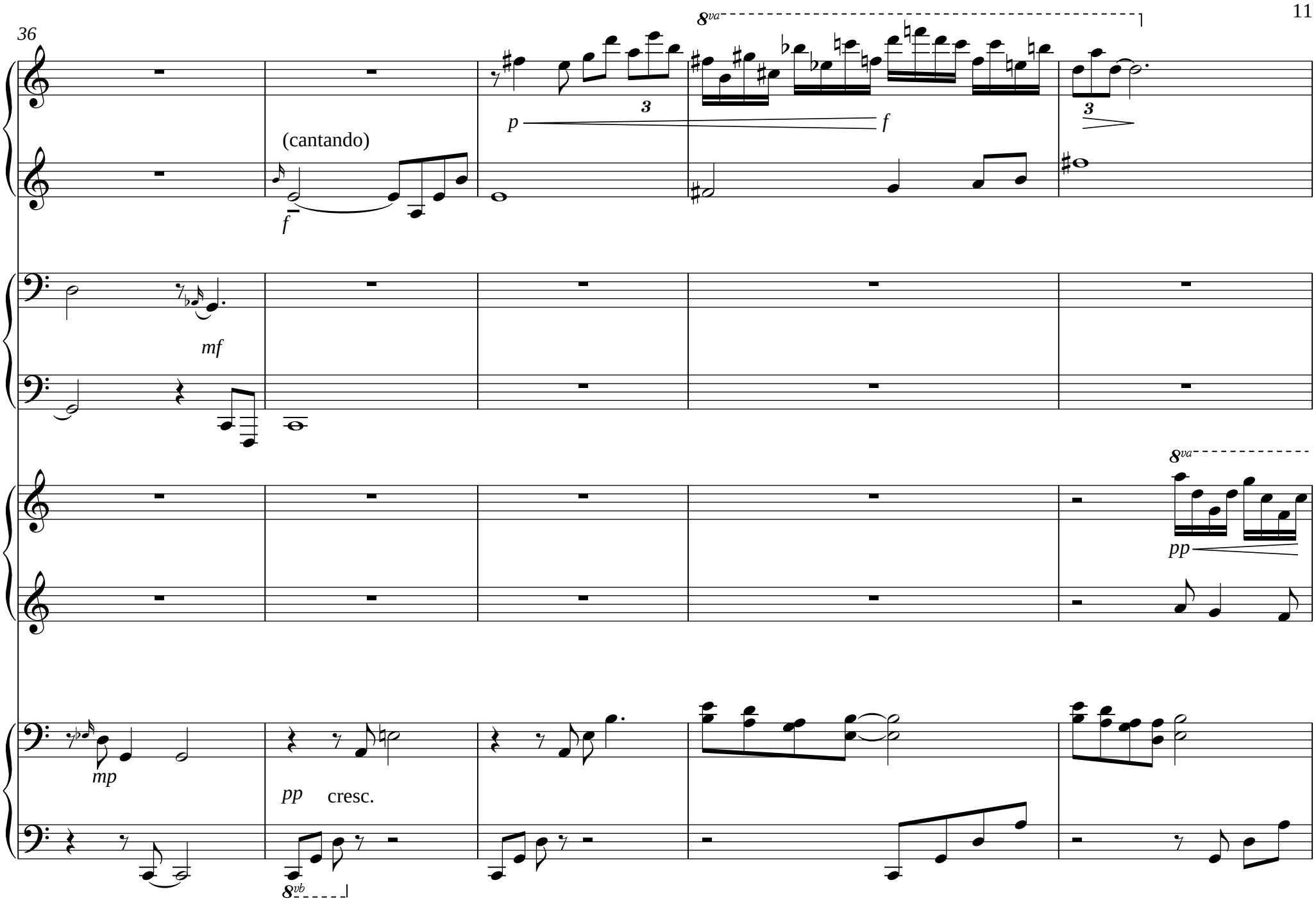
6

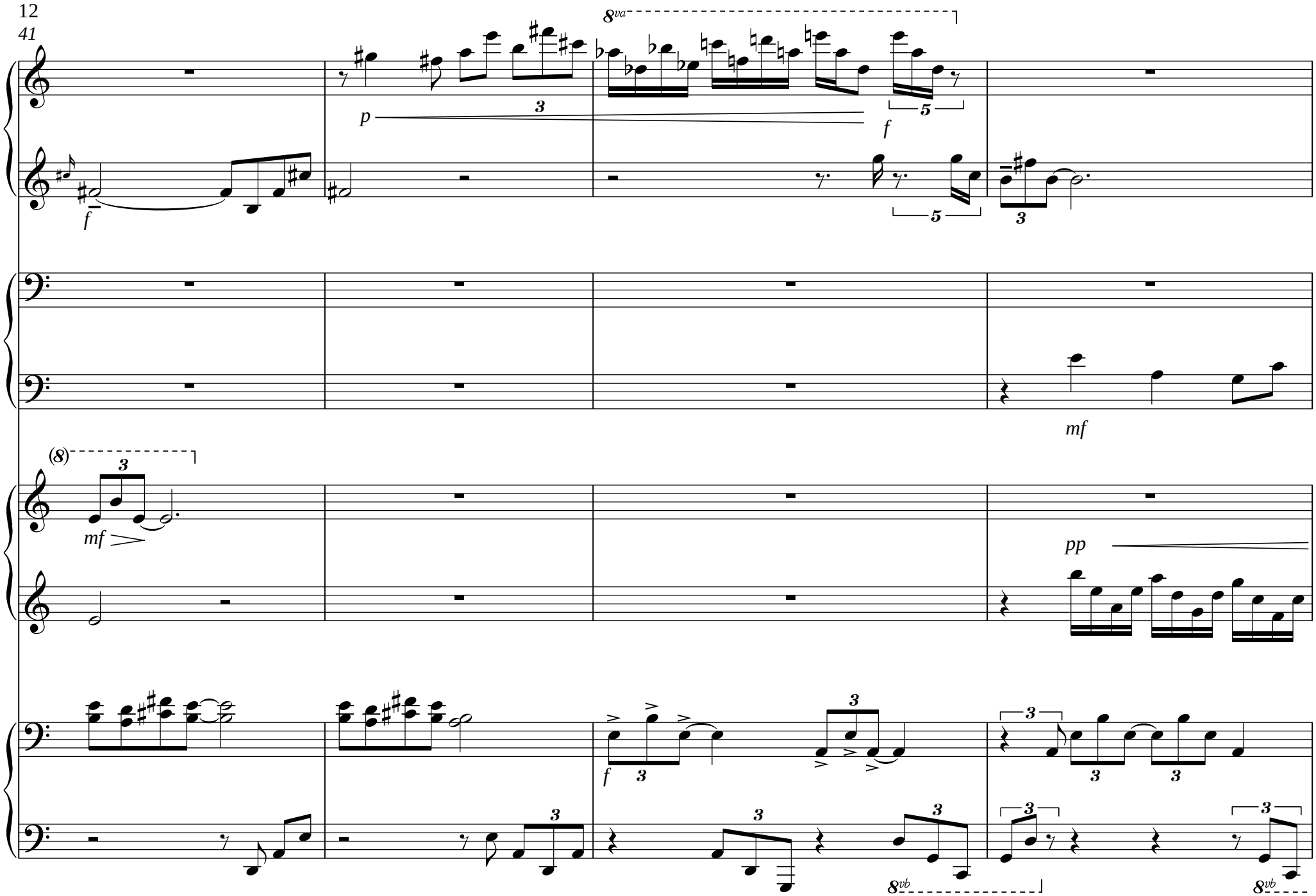
(8)

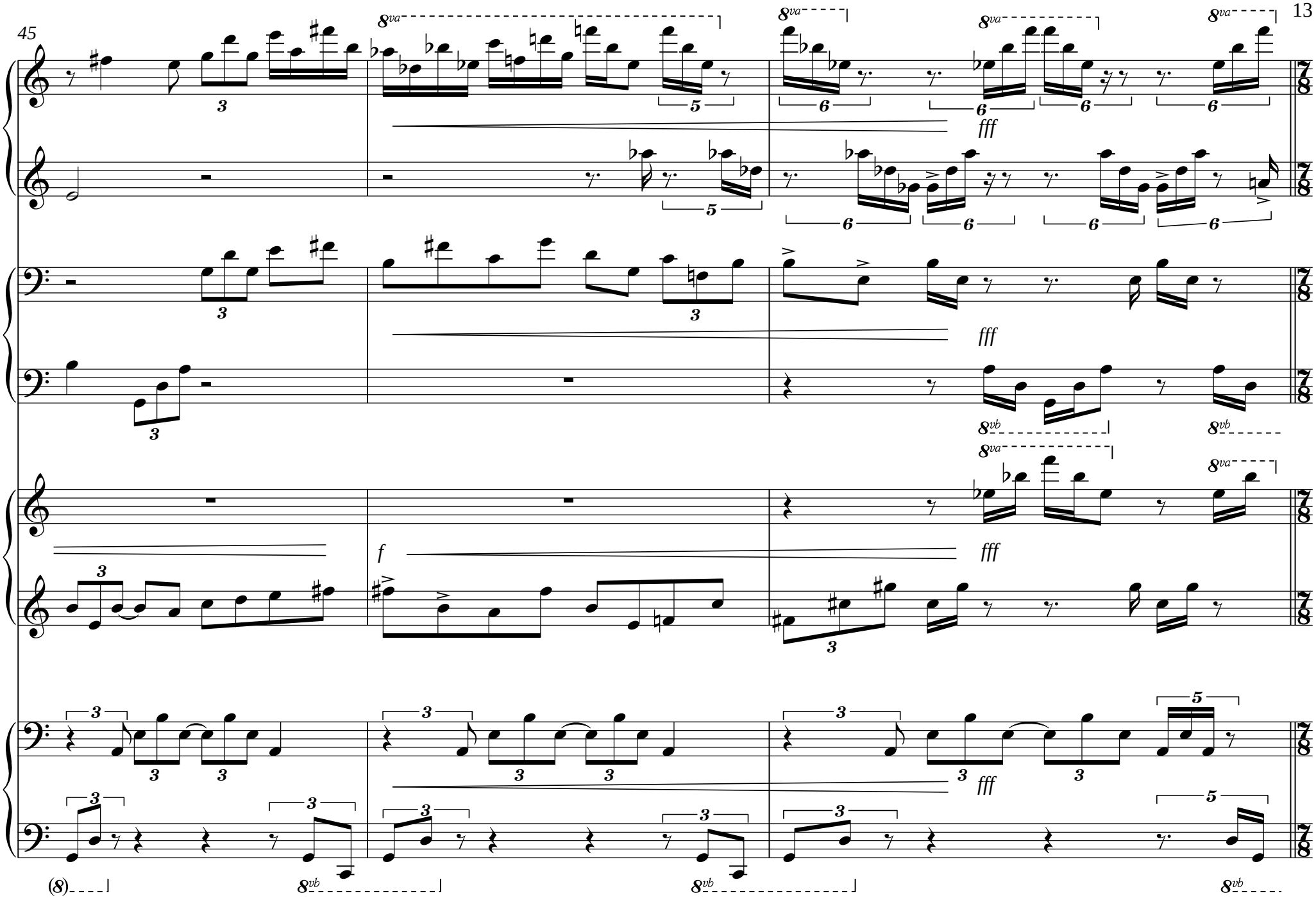

27
8va
pp
mf
p
8va
mf
loco
pp
3
3
3
f
mp
6
3
f
p
mf
6
(8)

31

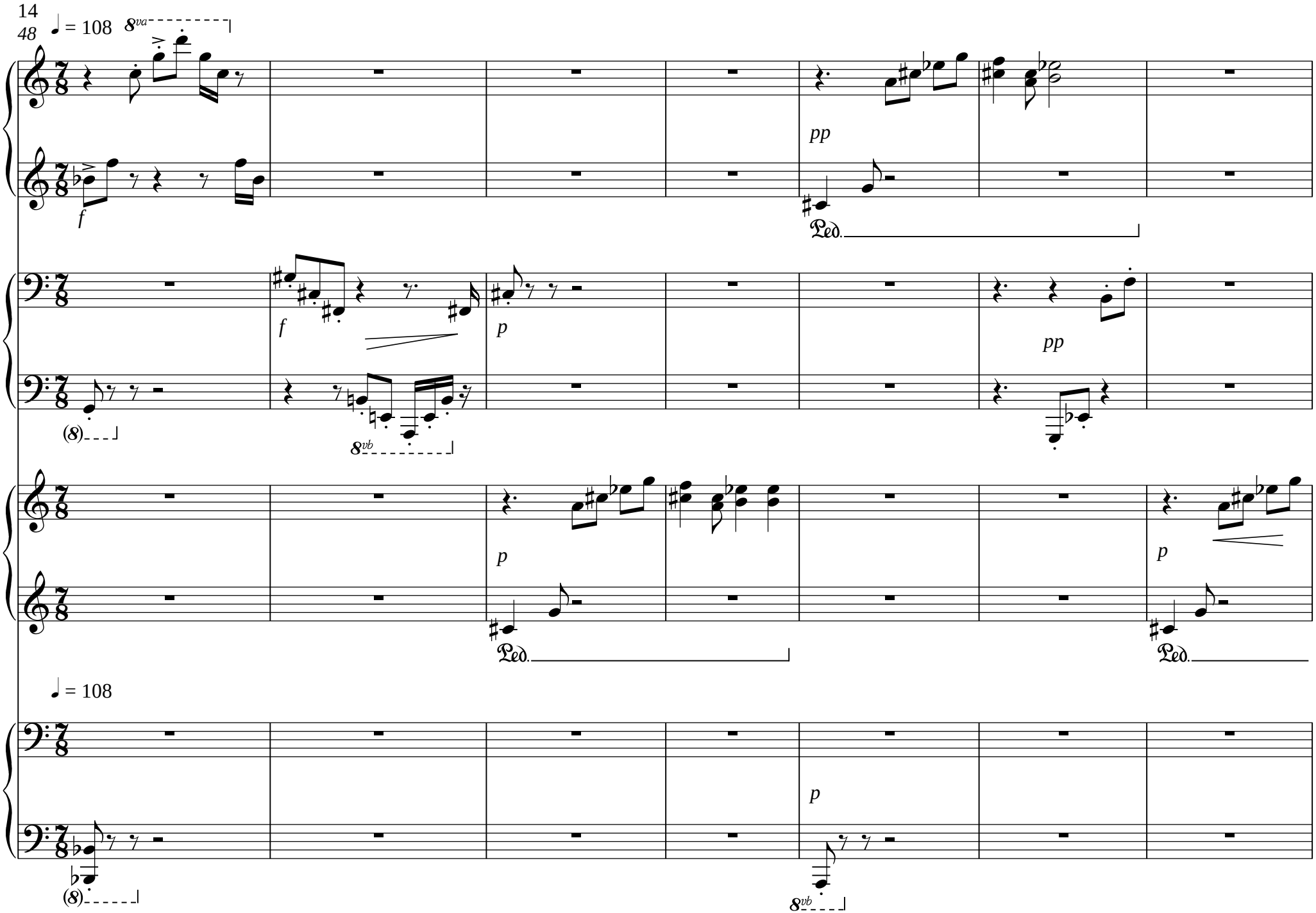


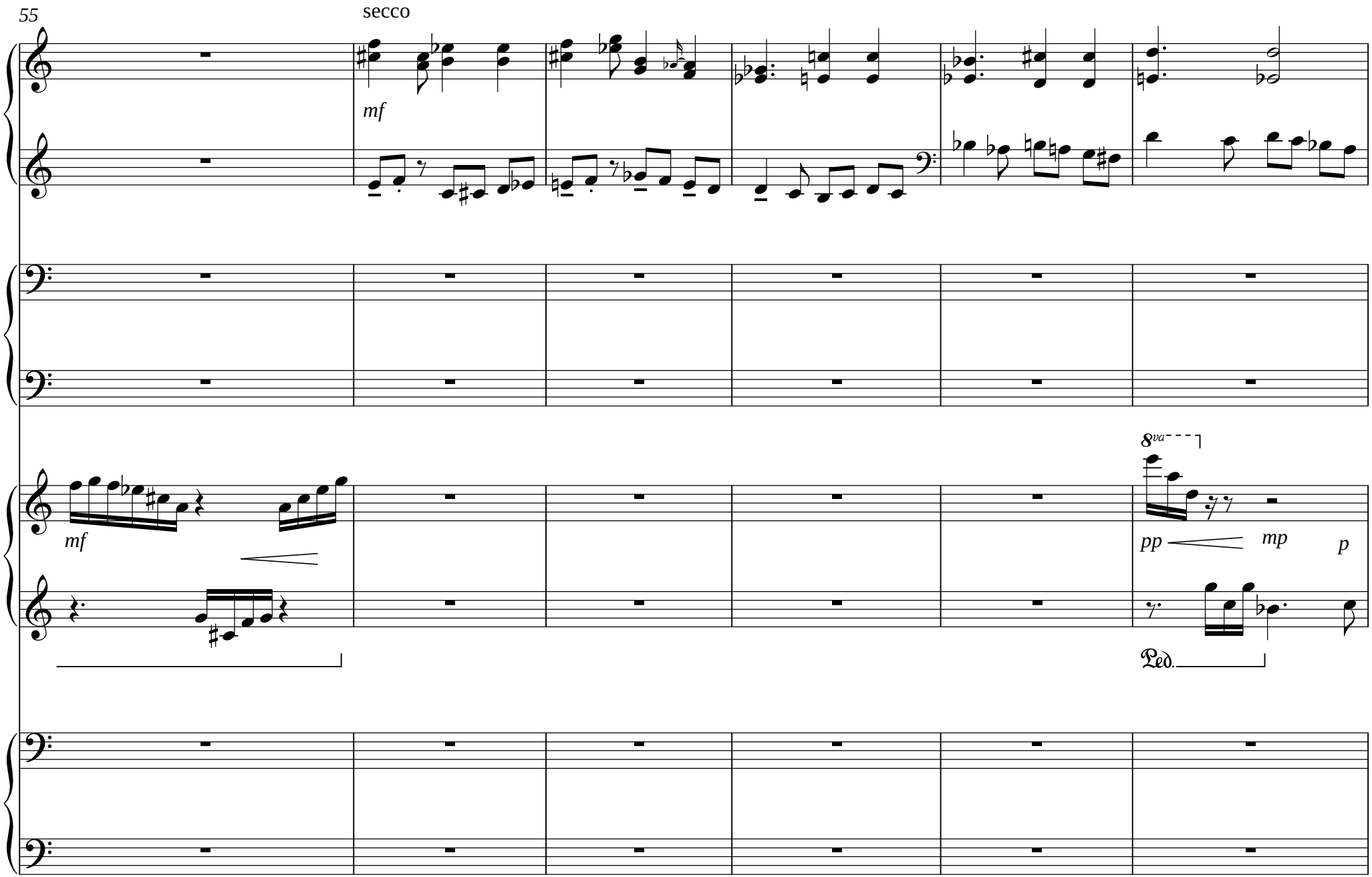

36
8va
(cantando)
f
p
f
3
3
mf
8va
pp
mp
pp
cresc.
8vb


41
8va
p
f
f
mf
(8)
mf
pp
f
8vb
8vb

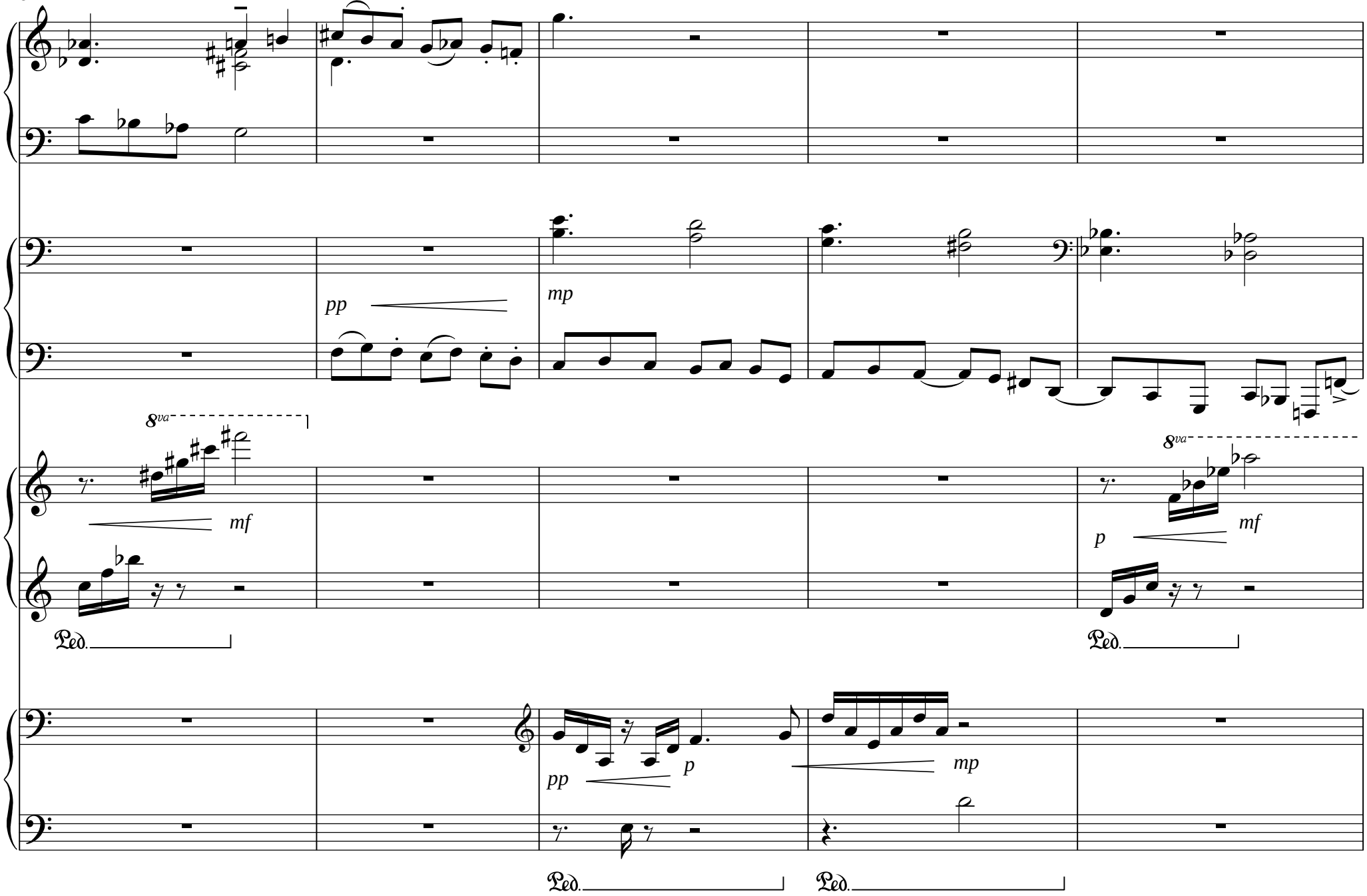

45
8va
fff
8vb
f
(8)

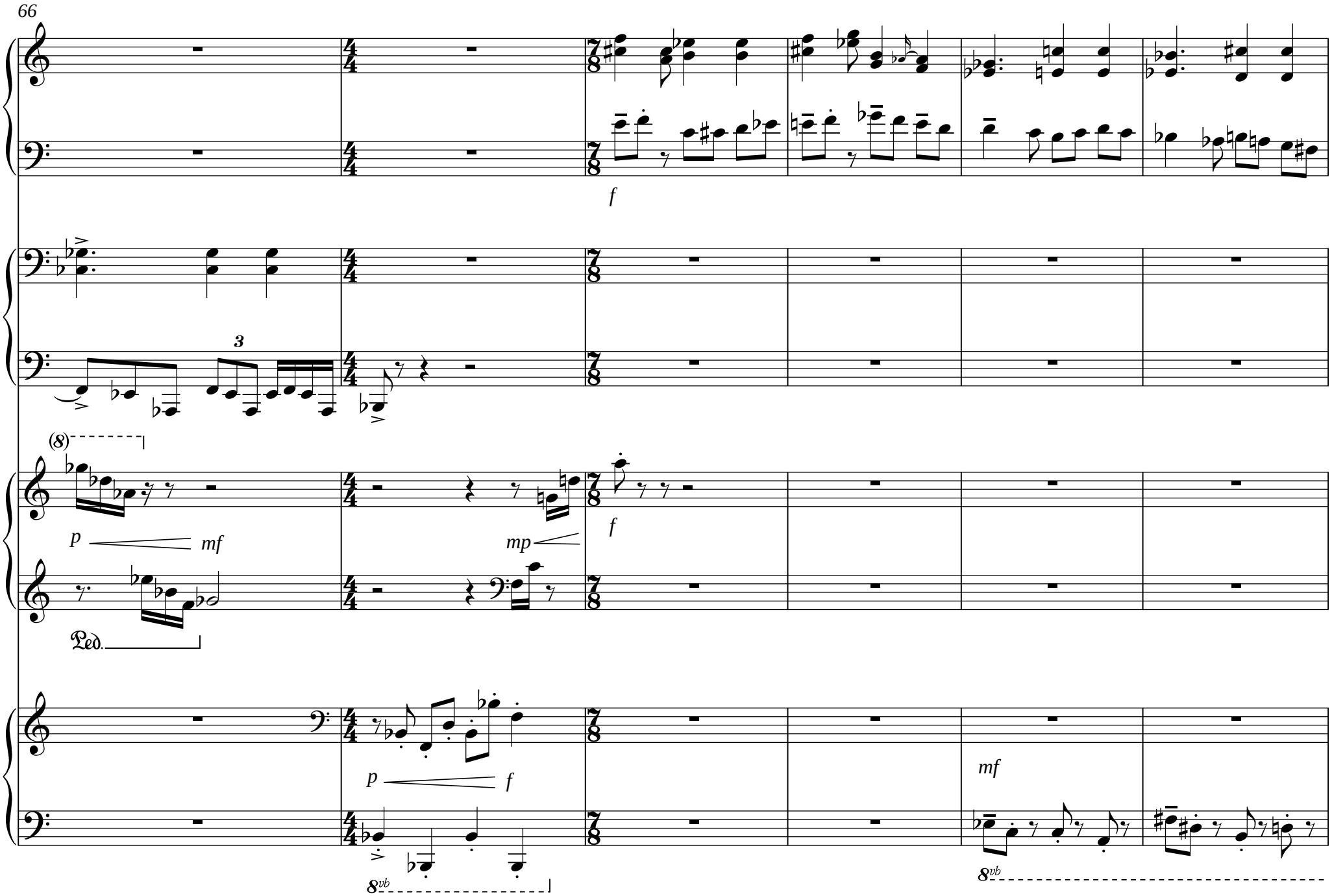
2. Arid Zone



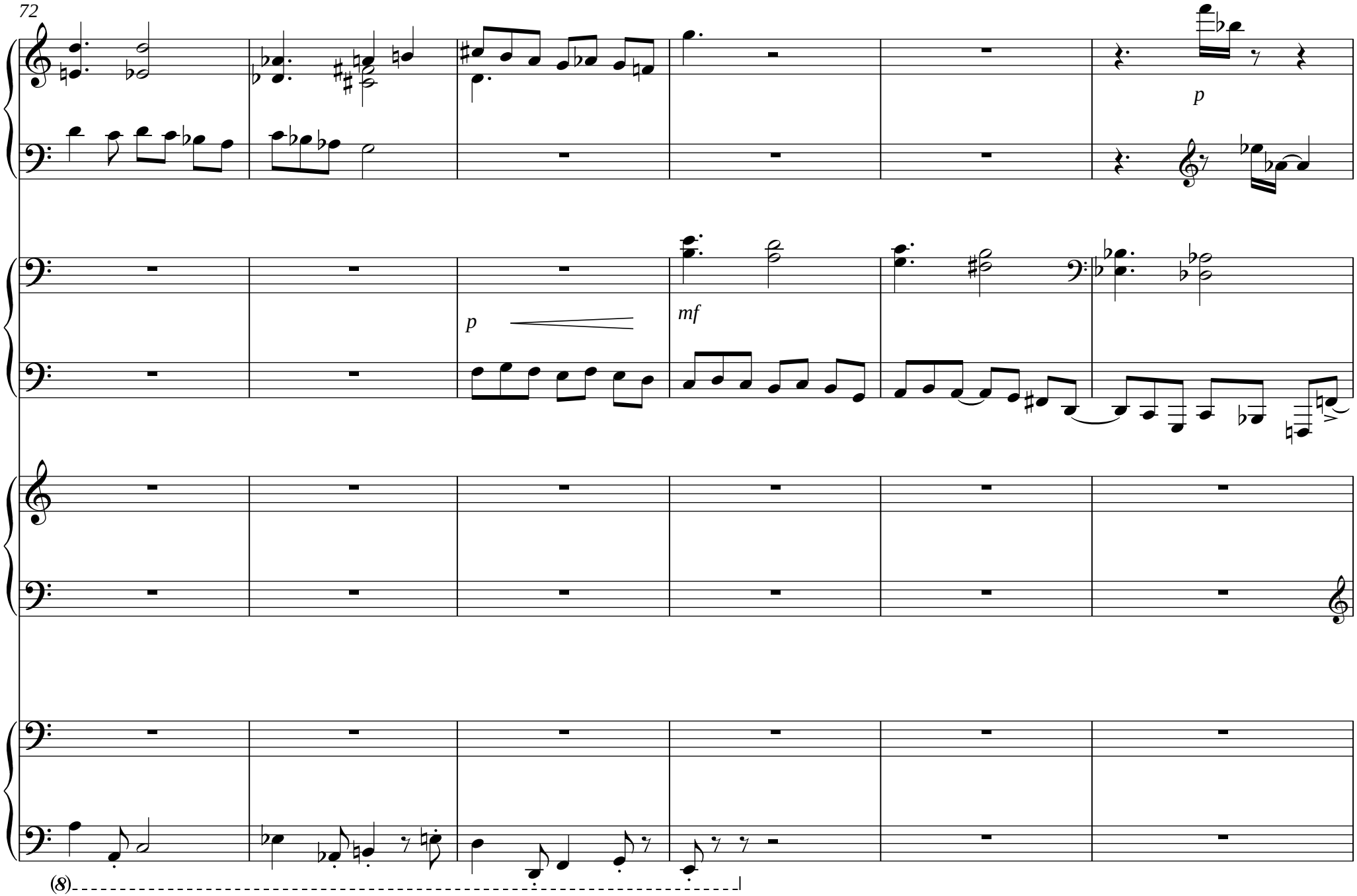

55
secco
mf
mf
8va
pp
mp
p
Ped.

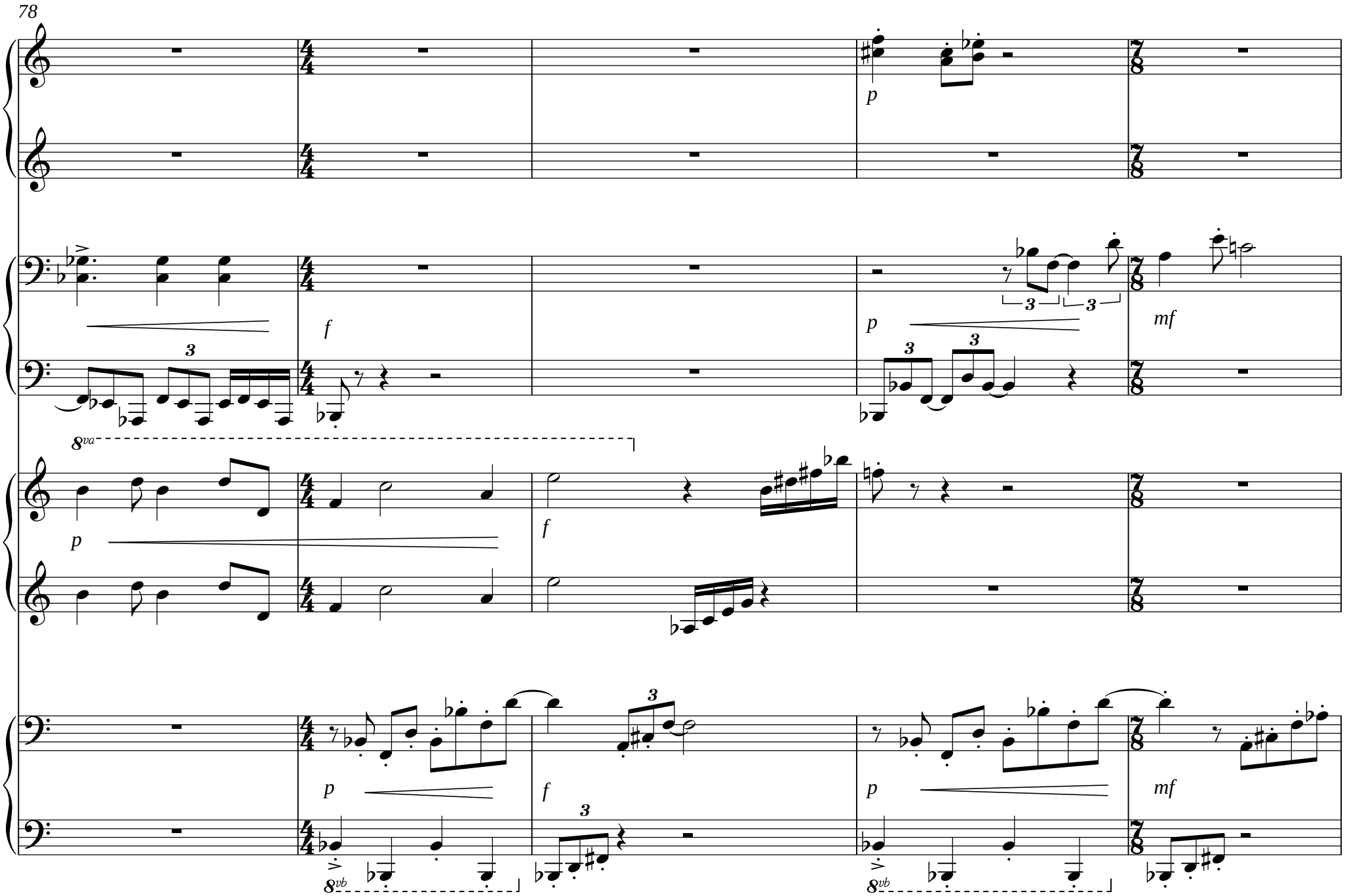
61

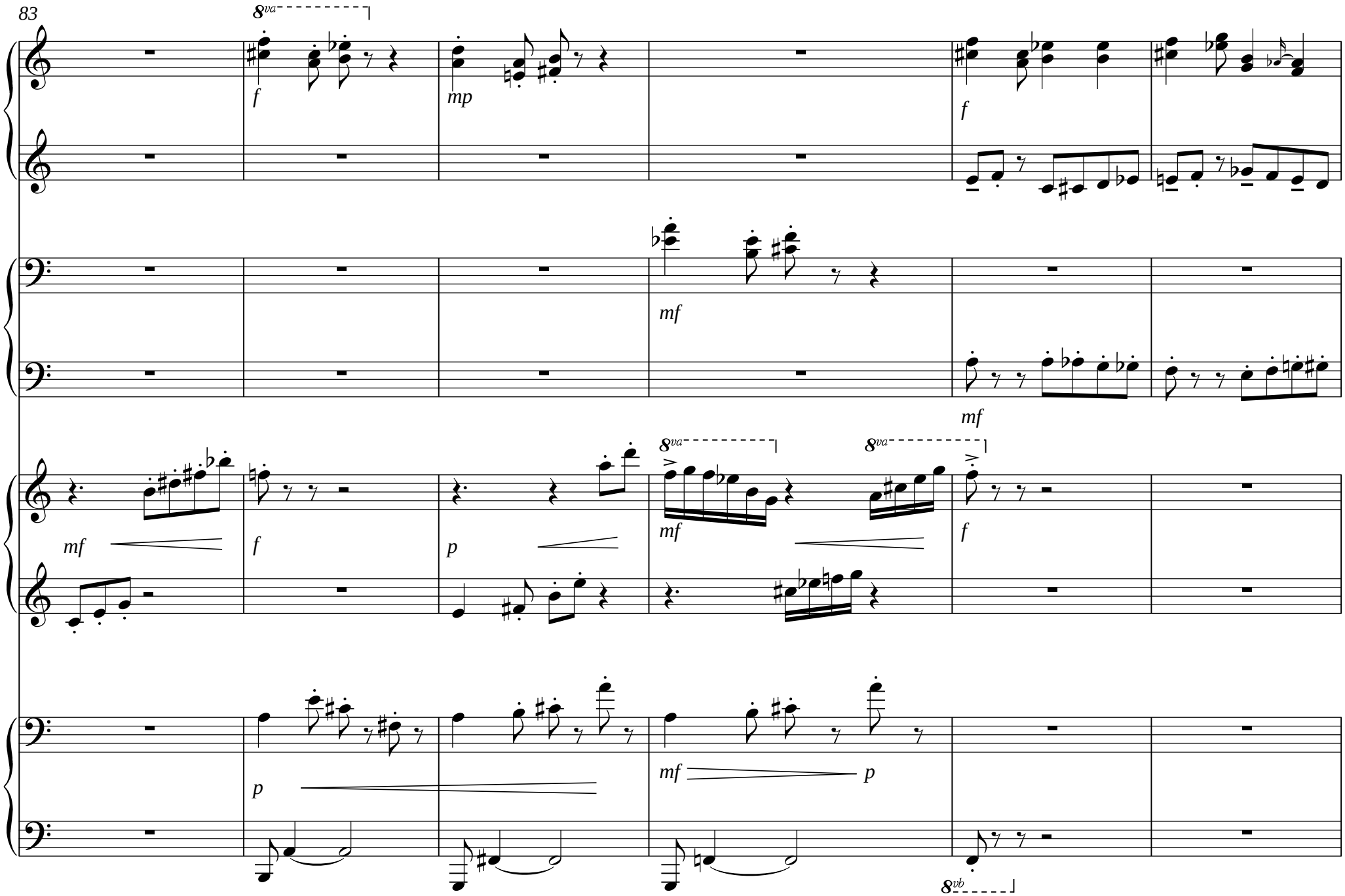


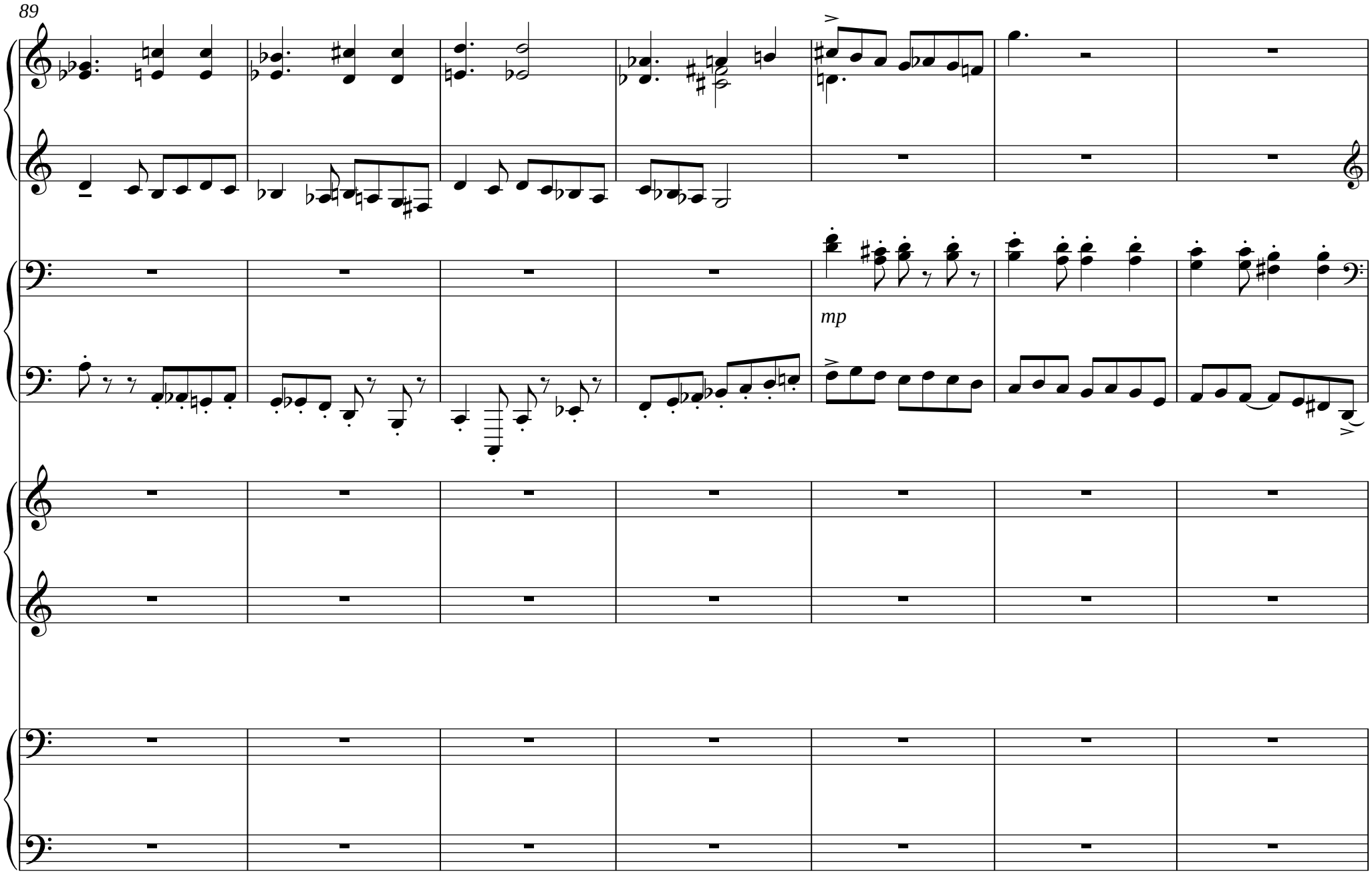

66
f
3
(8)
p
mf
mp
f
Ped.
p
f
mf
8vb
8vb

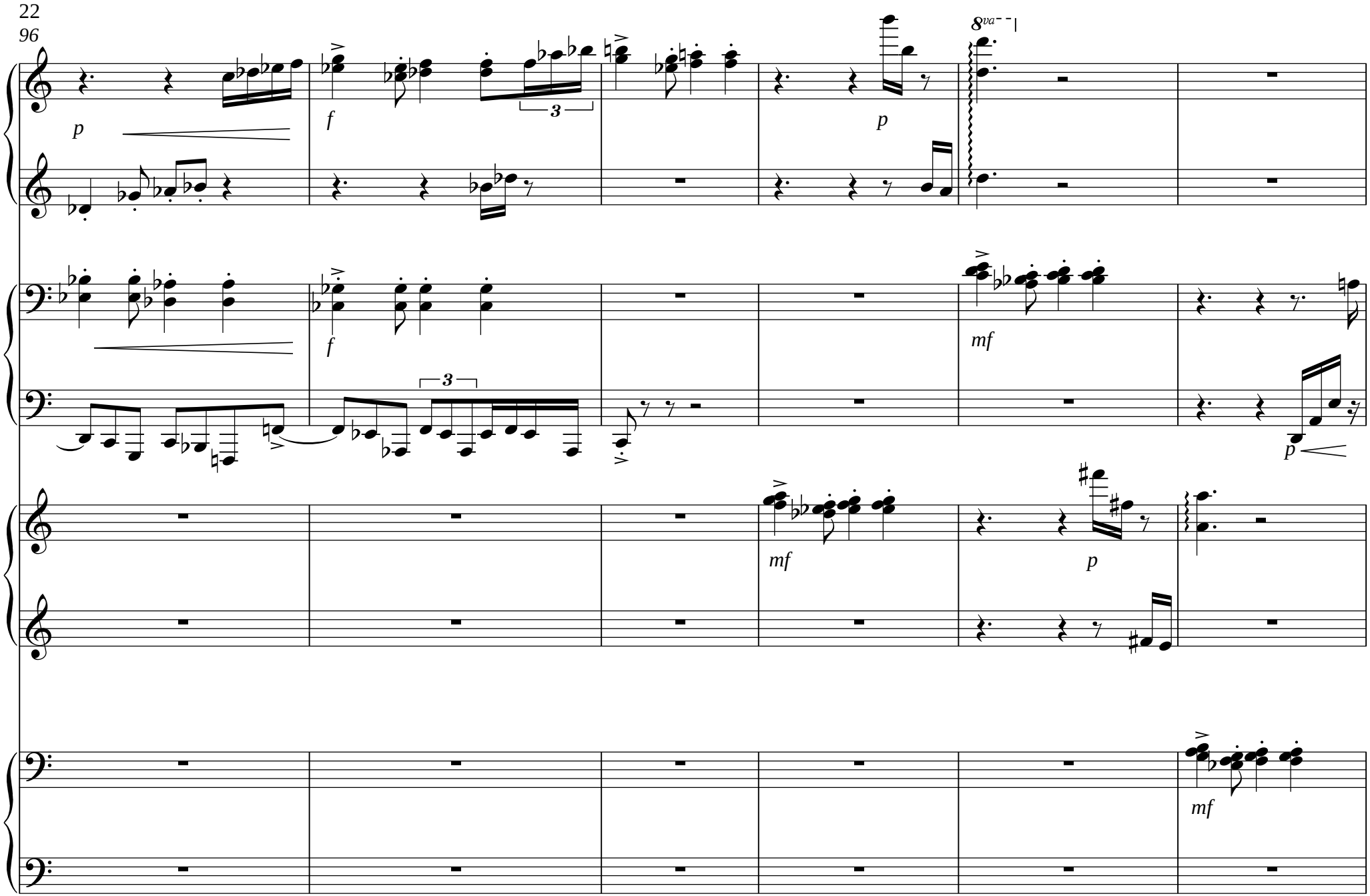
72

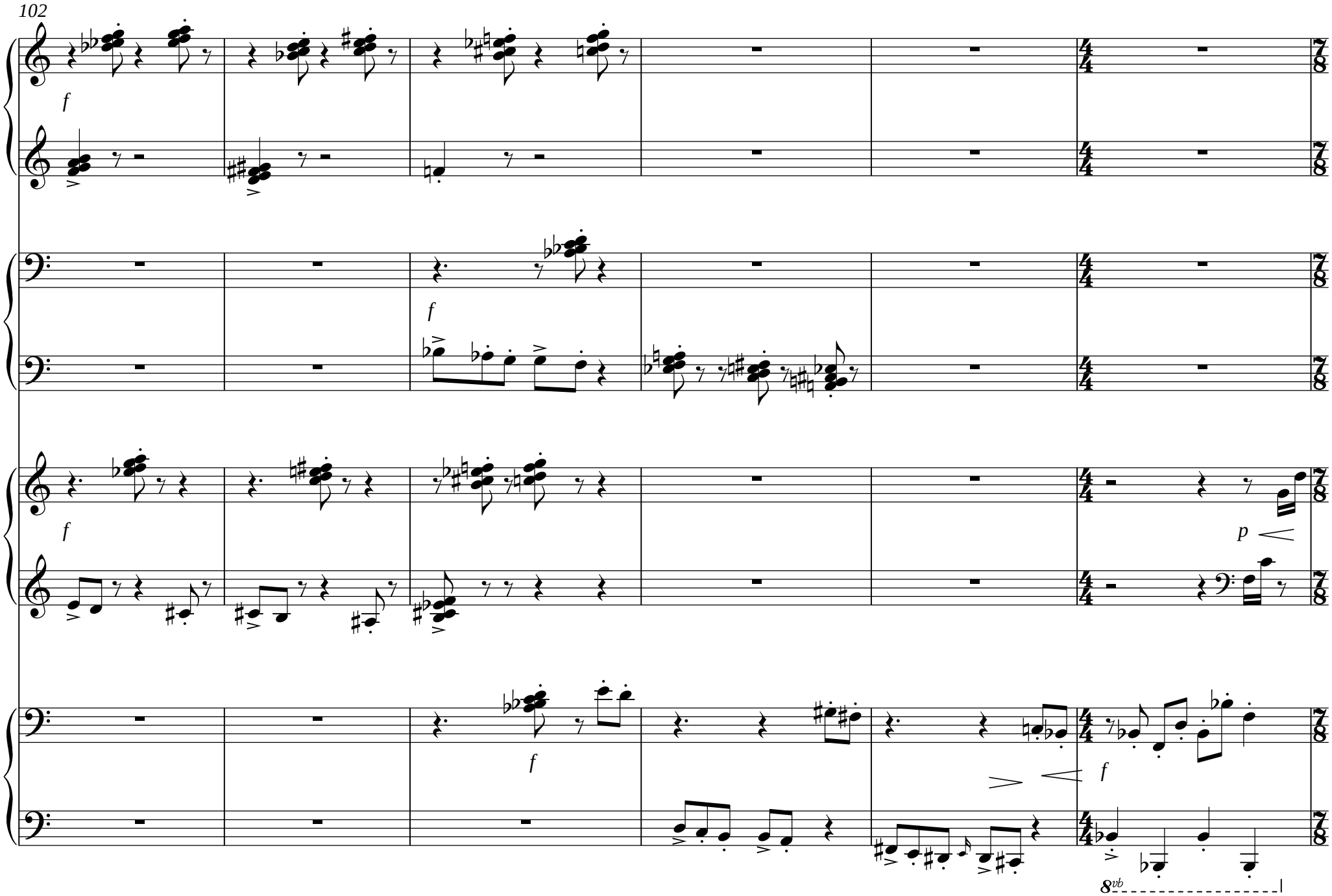



78
p
f
p
mf
8va
p
f
p
f
p
mf
8vb
8vb

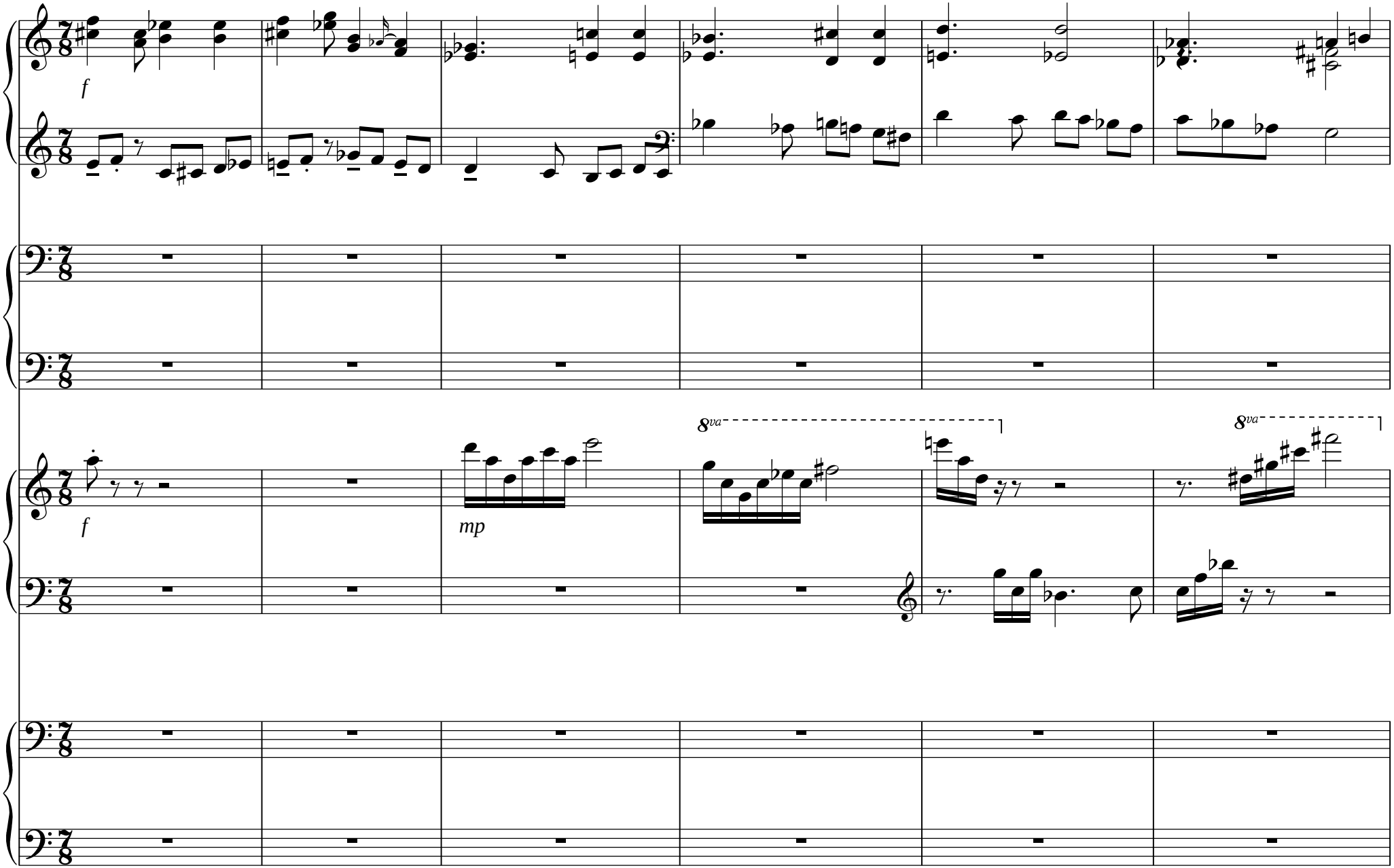

83
8va
f
mp
f
mf
mf
mf
f
p
8va
mf
8va
f
p
mf
p
8vb

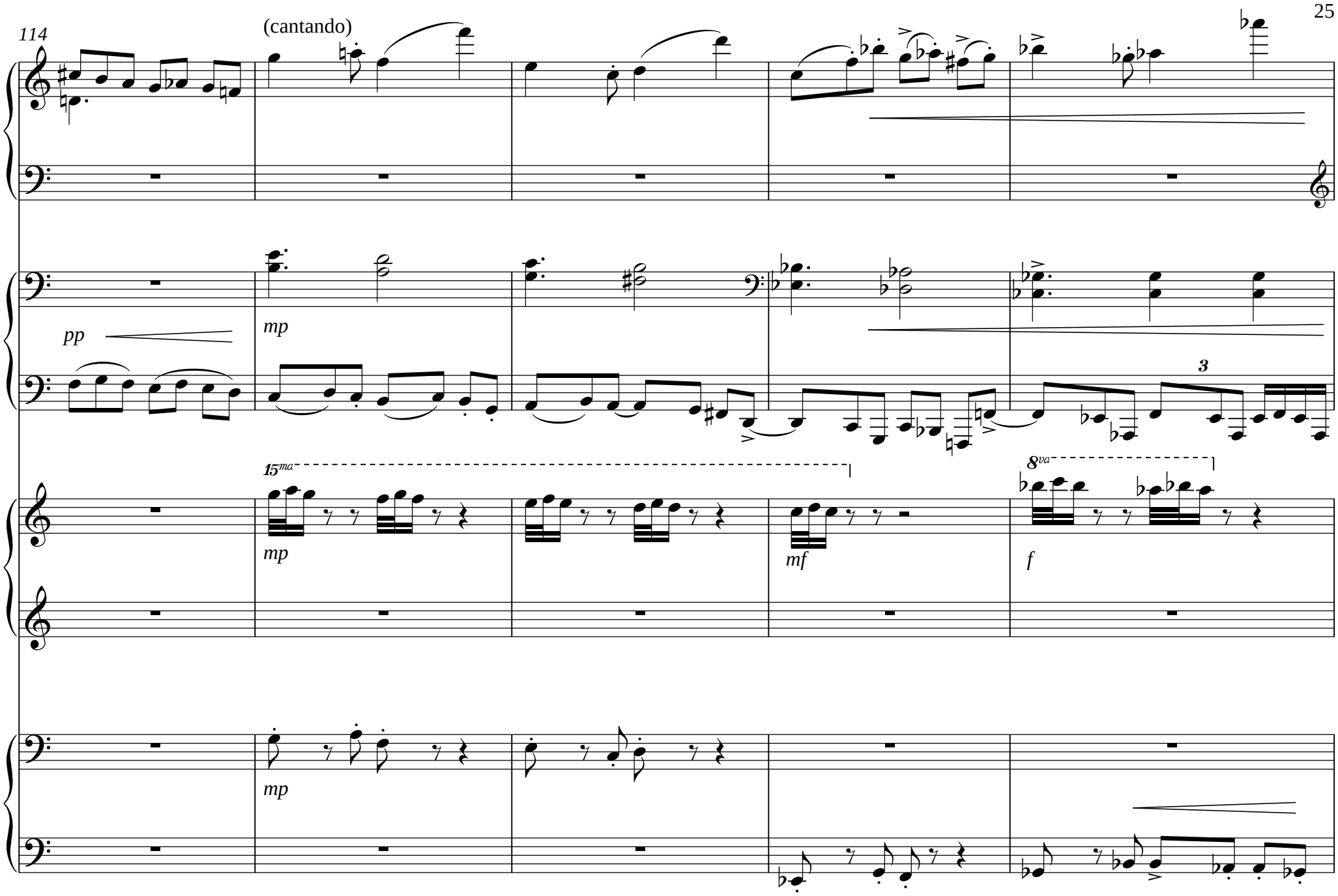

89
mp

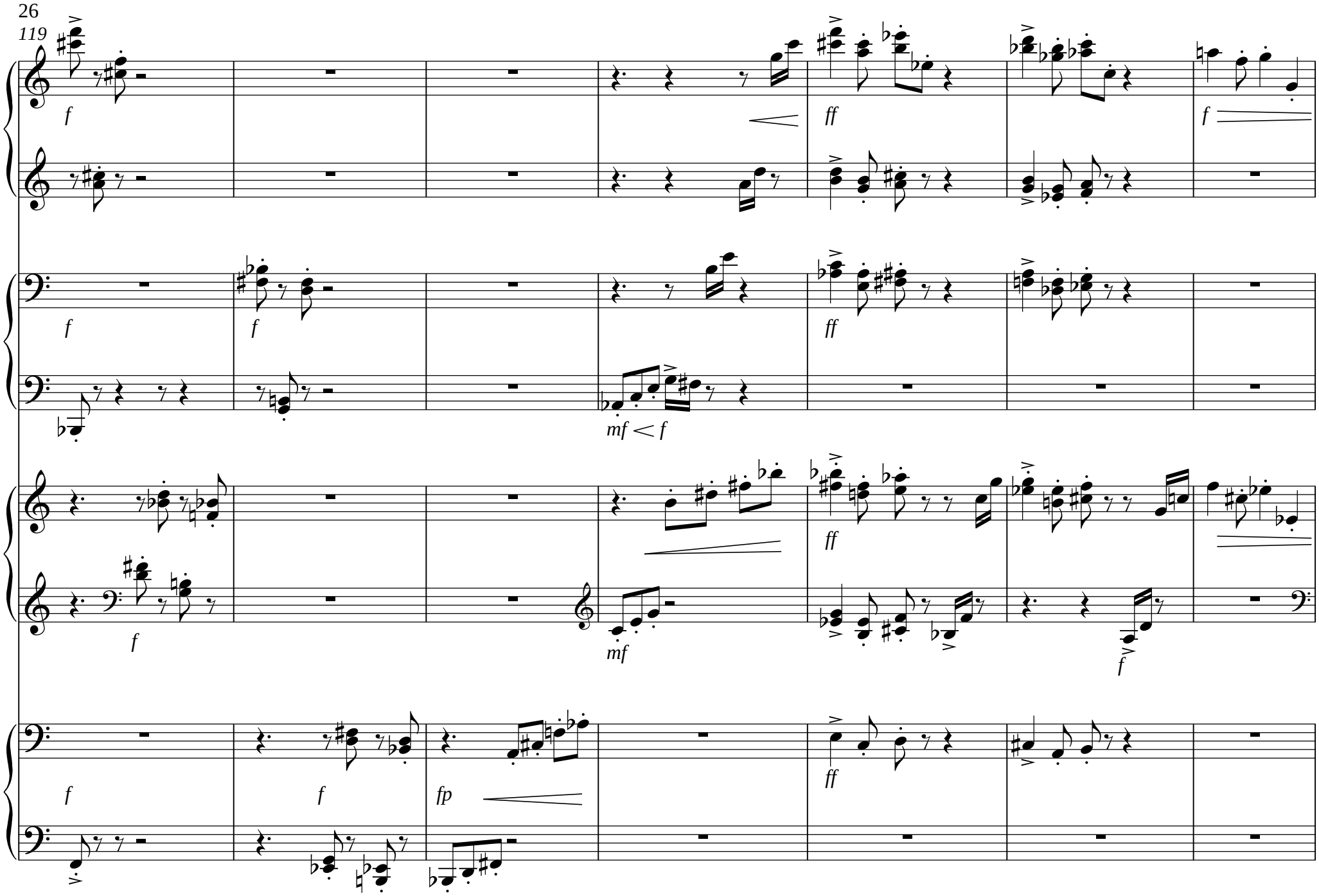

p
f
3
p
8va
f
3
mf
p
mf
p
mf

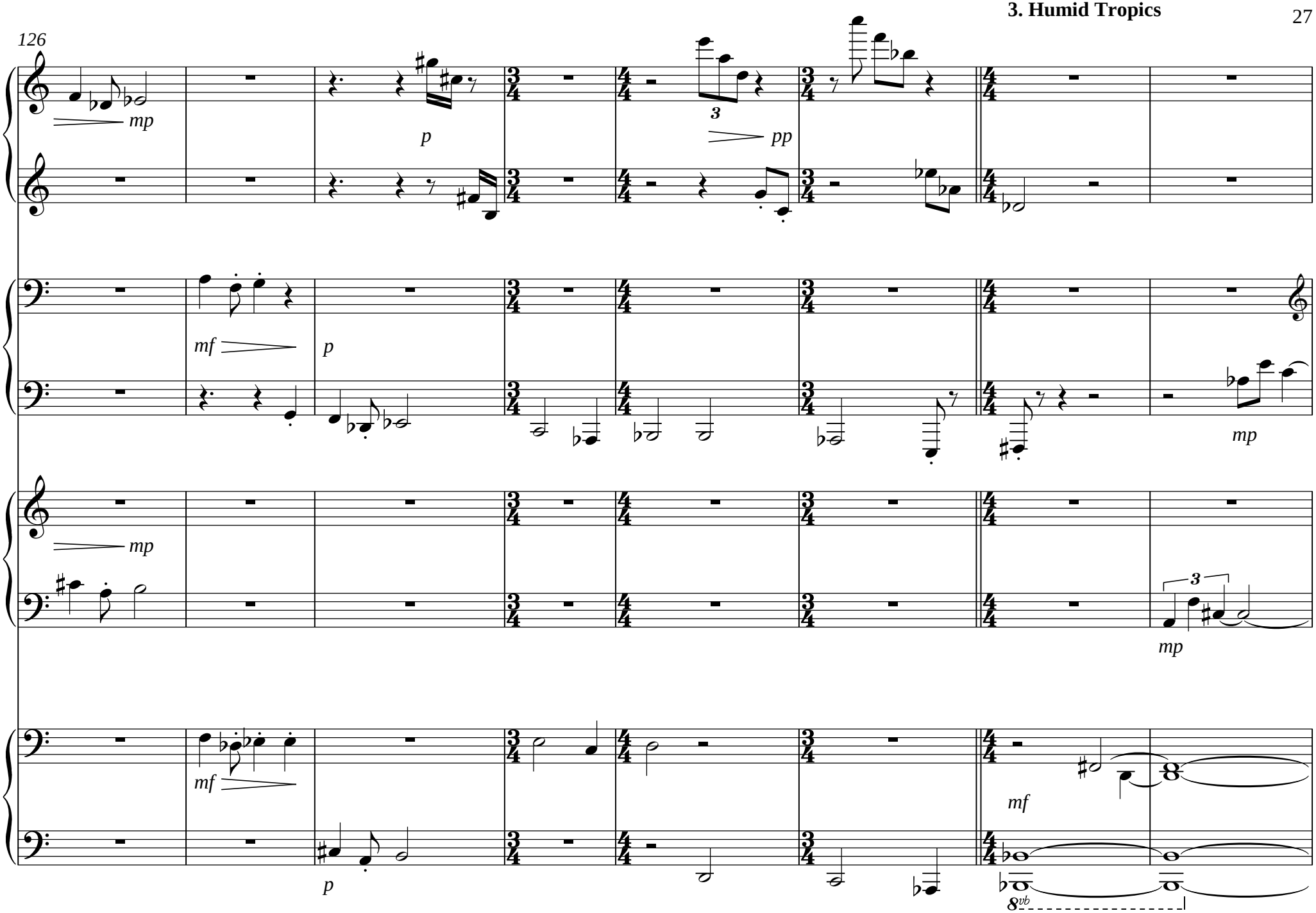

102
f
f
f
p
f
f
8vb

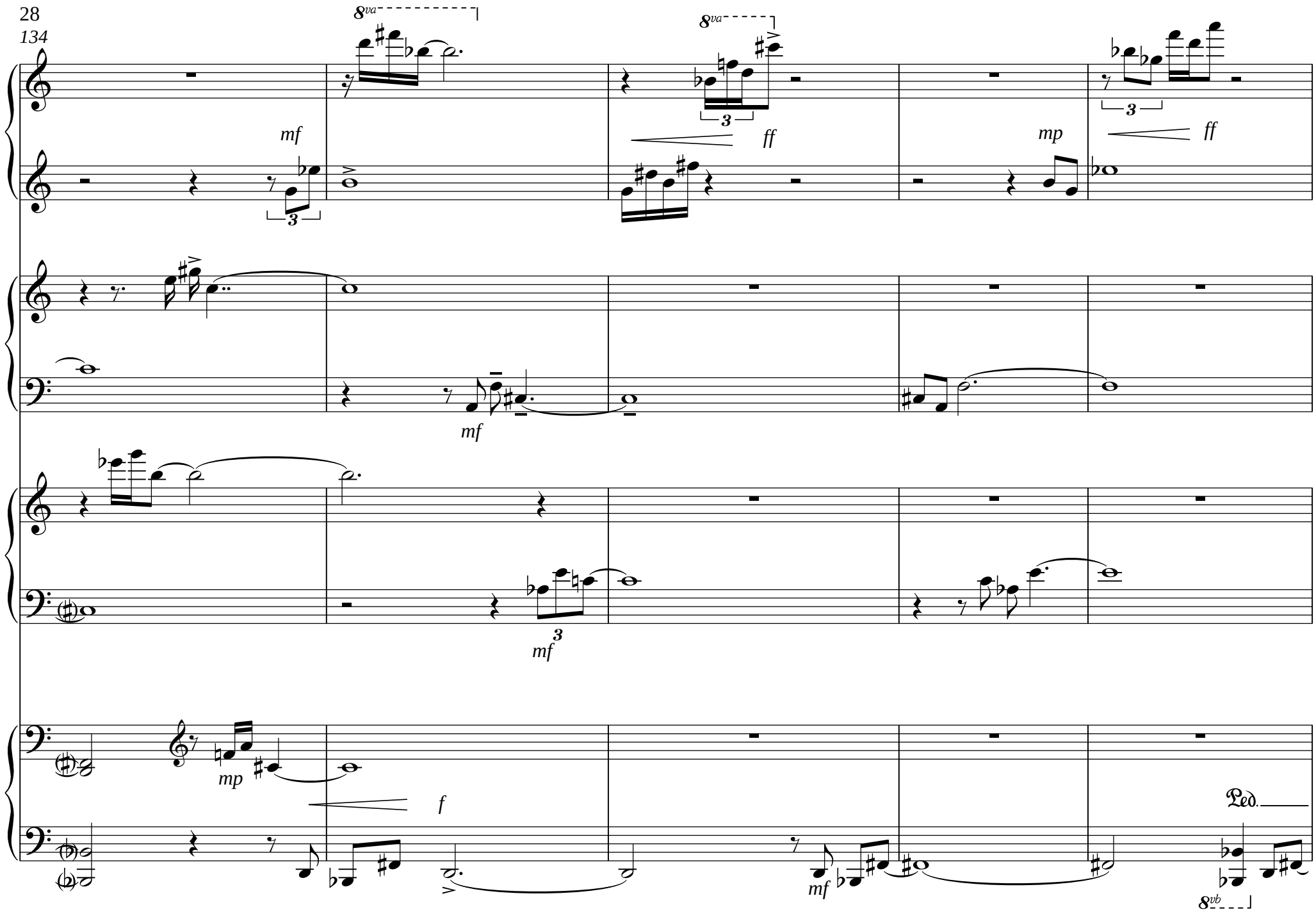
108

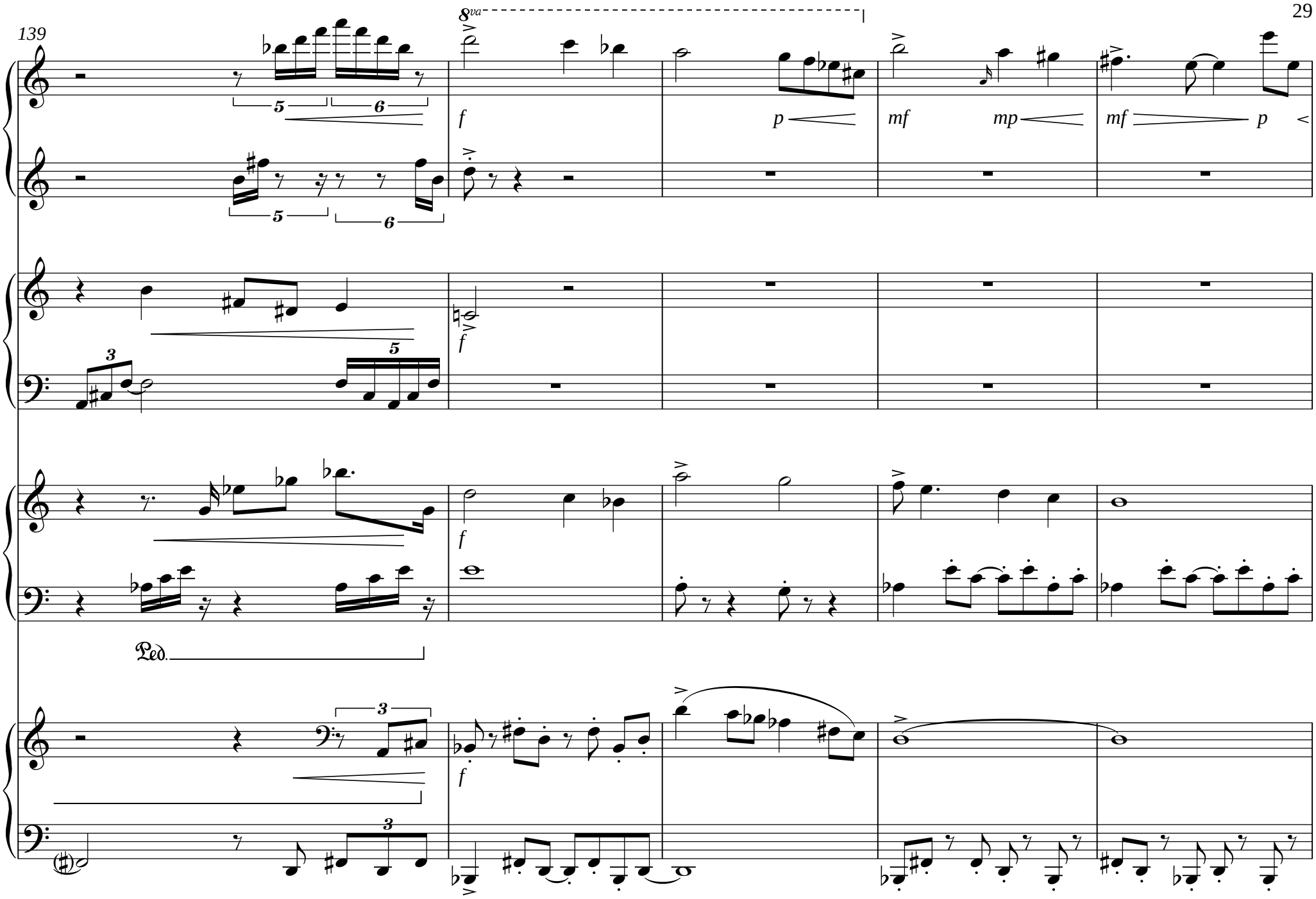


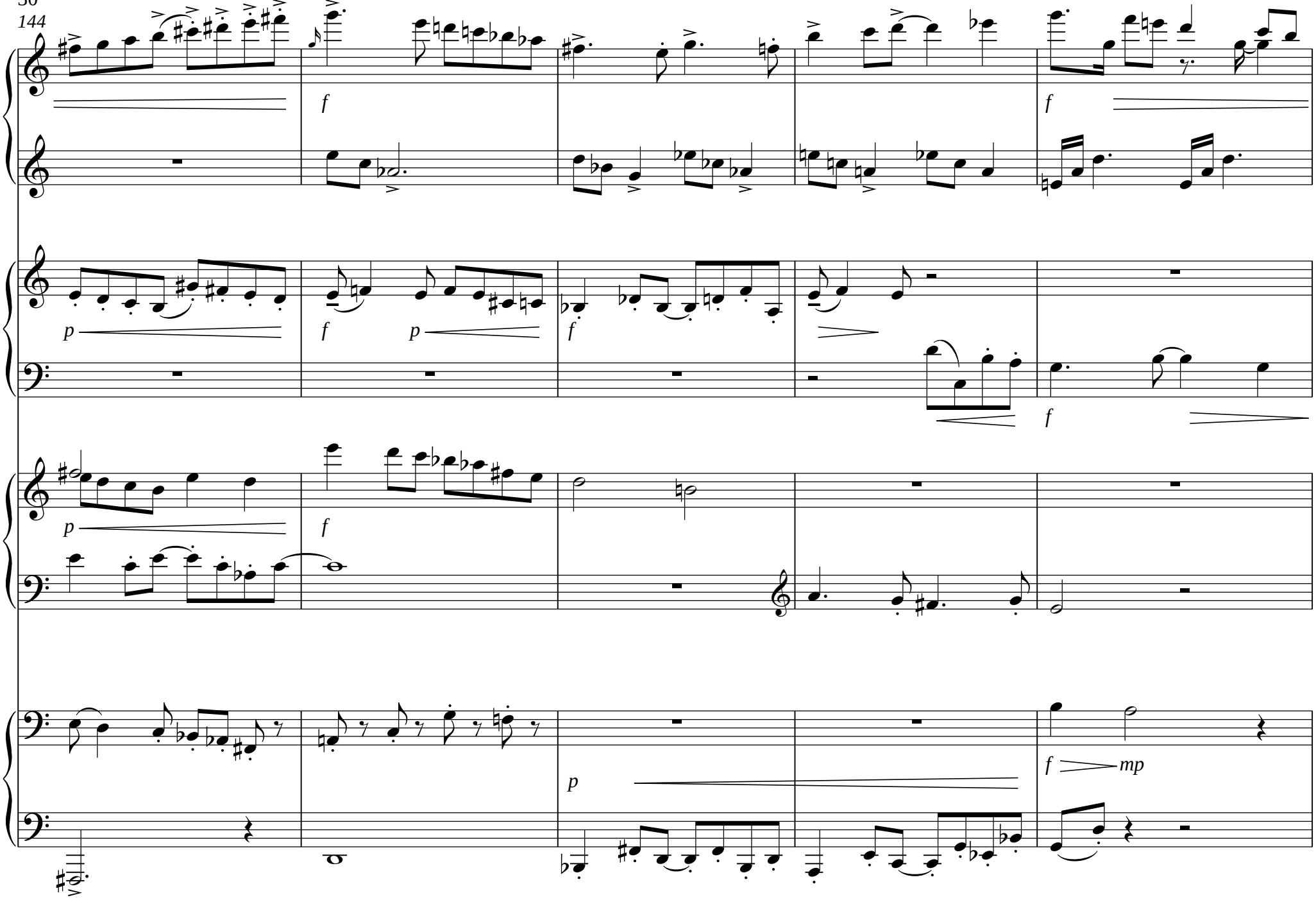

114
(cantando)
pp
mp
3
15ma
mp
mf
8va
f
mp


f
ff
f
f
f
mf < f
ff
f
mf
ff
f
f
f
fp
ff


126
mp
p
3
pp
mf
p
mp
mp
3
mp
mf
mf
p
8vb


134
8va
8va
mf
ff
mp
ff
mf
mf
mp
f
mf
Ped.
8vb


139
8va
f
p
mf
mp
mf
p
Ped.


f
f
p
f
p
f
f
p
f
f
p
f
mp

149

RIT.

(Tempo 1)

♩ = 96

p

pp

pp

una corda

p

RIT.

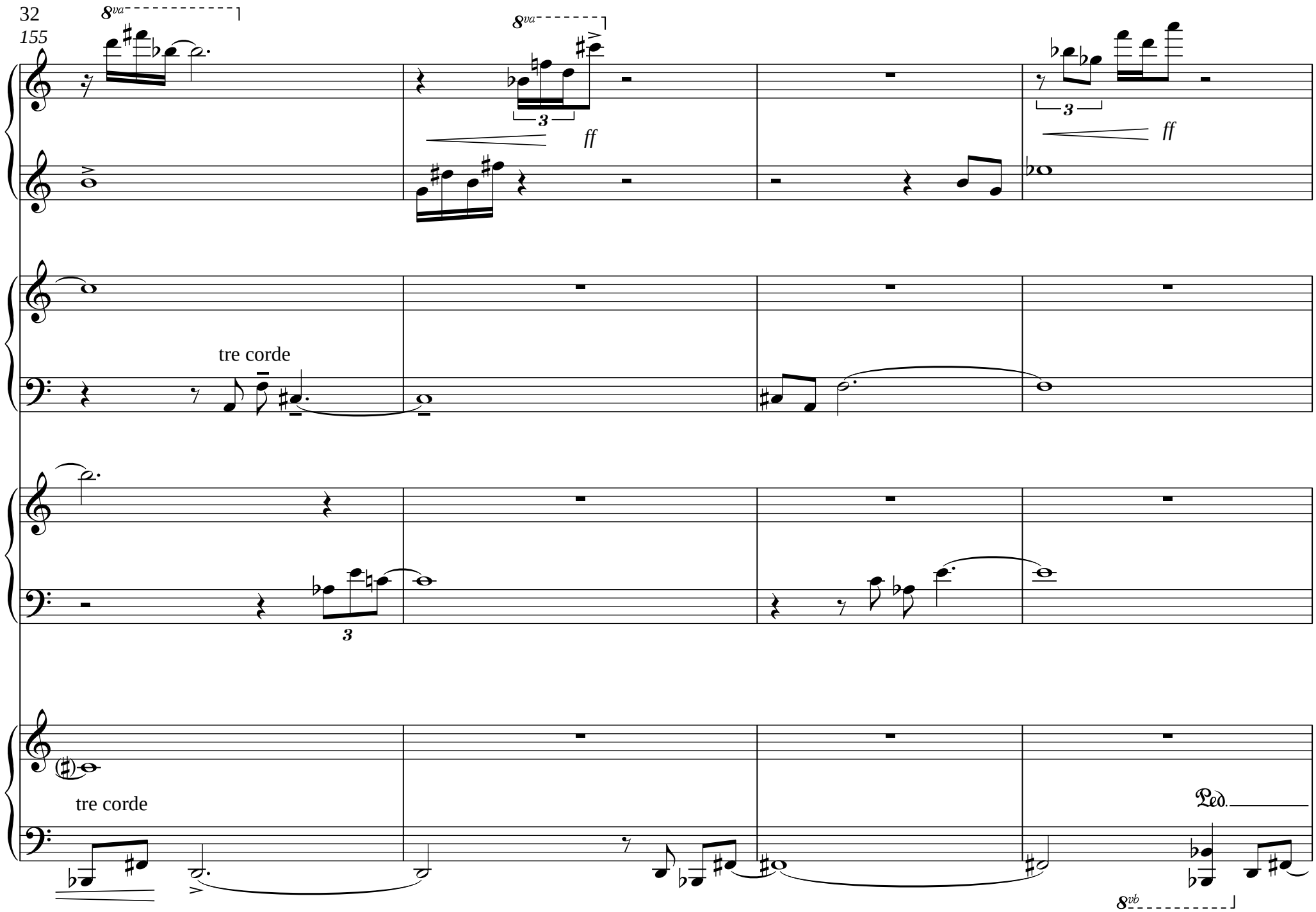
(Tempo 1)

♩ = 96

pp

una corda

8vb


8va
8va
ff
ff
tre corde
tre corde
Ped.
8vb

159

♩ = 96 (Tempo 1)

4. Spicy & Economic

8va

ff

Ped.

ff

ff

Ped.

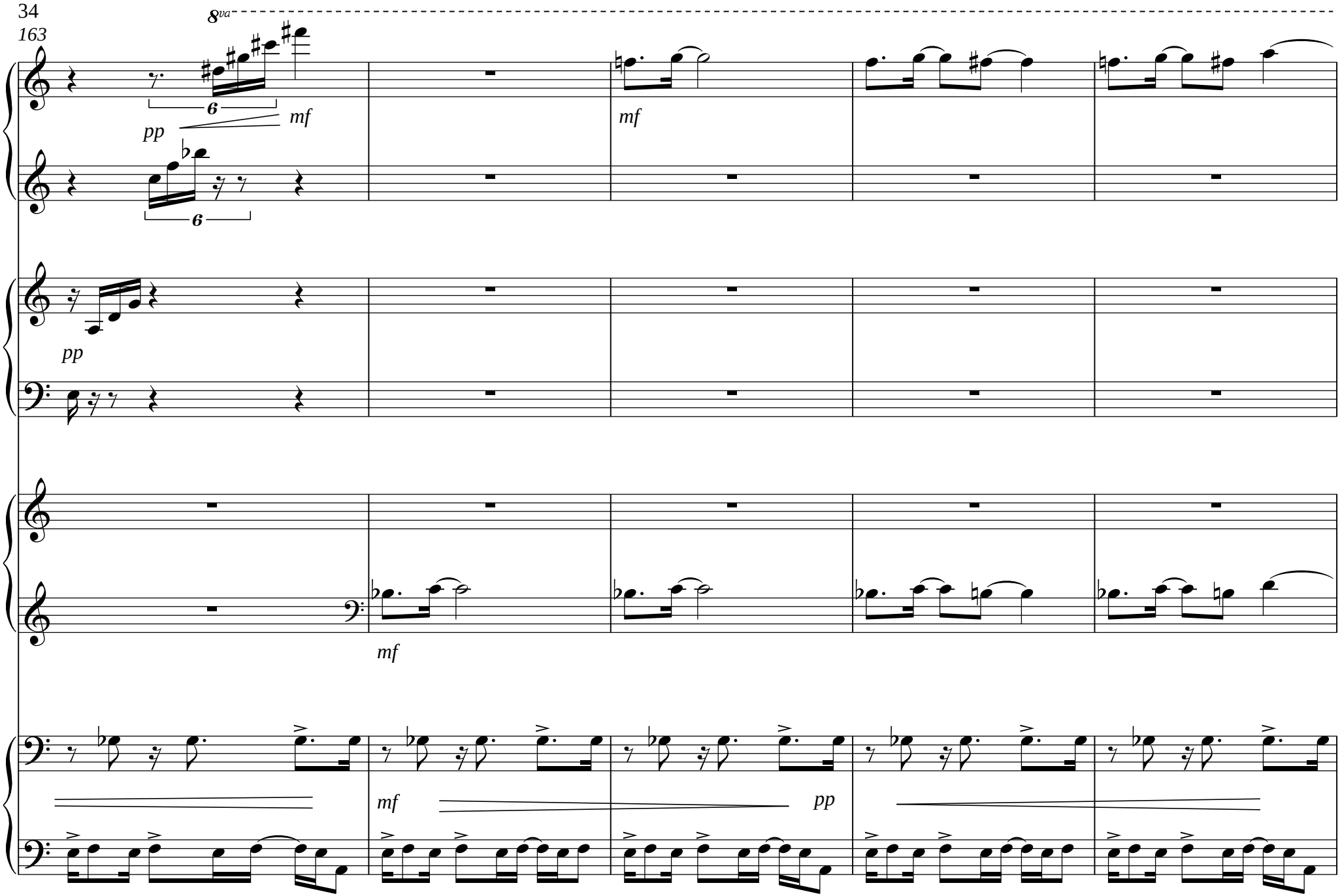
ff

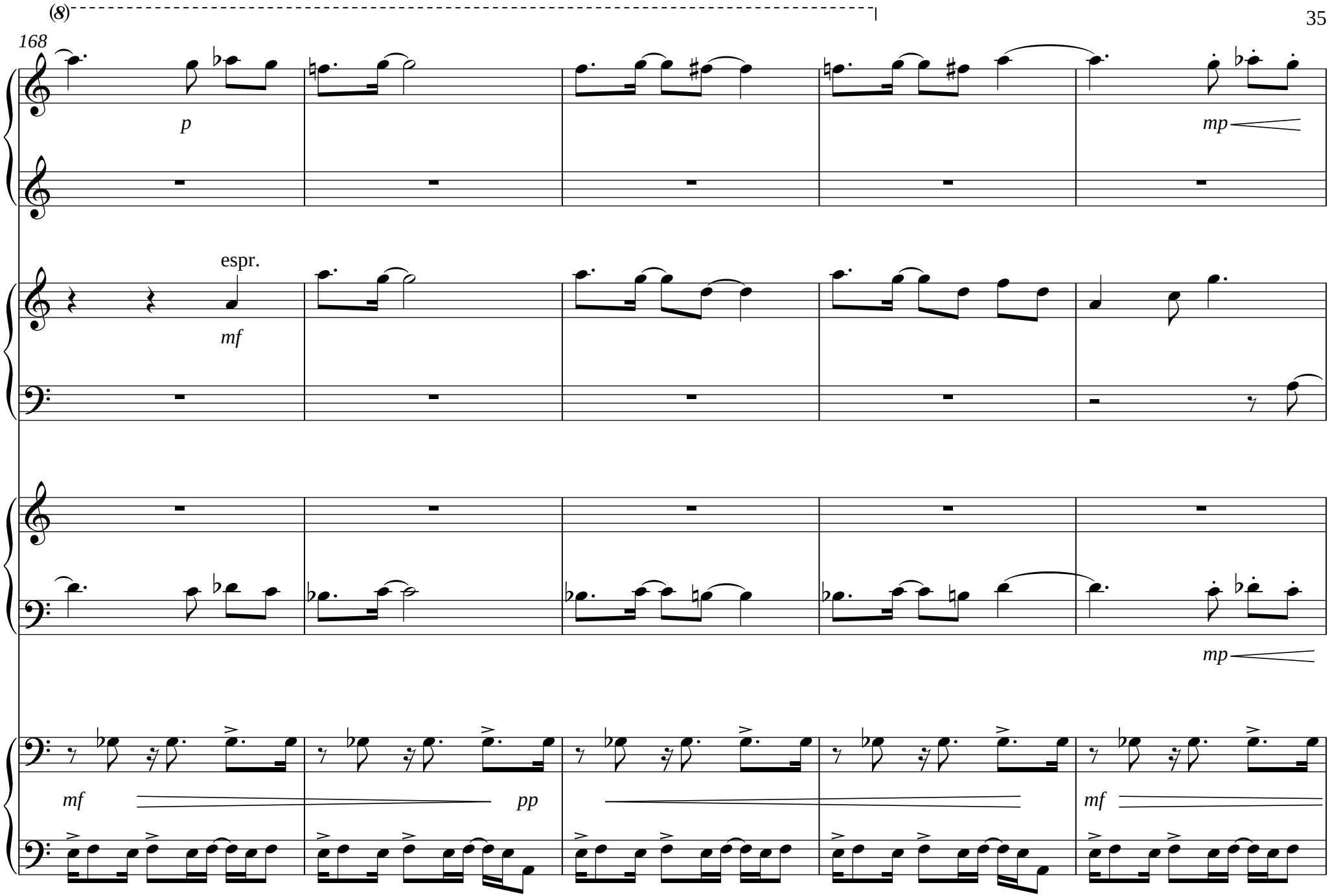
Ped.

♩ = 96 (Tempo 1)

ppp

con ped.


163
8va
6
pp
mf
mf
6
pp
mf
mf
pp


(8)
168
p
mp
espr.
mf
mp
mf
pp
mf

173

mf

fpp

f

mfp

con ped.

fpp

f

8va

mfp

mfp

fpp

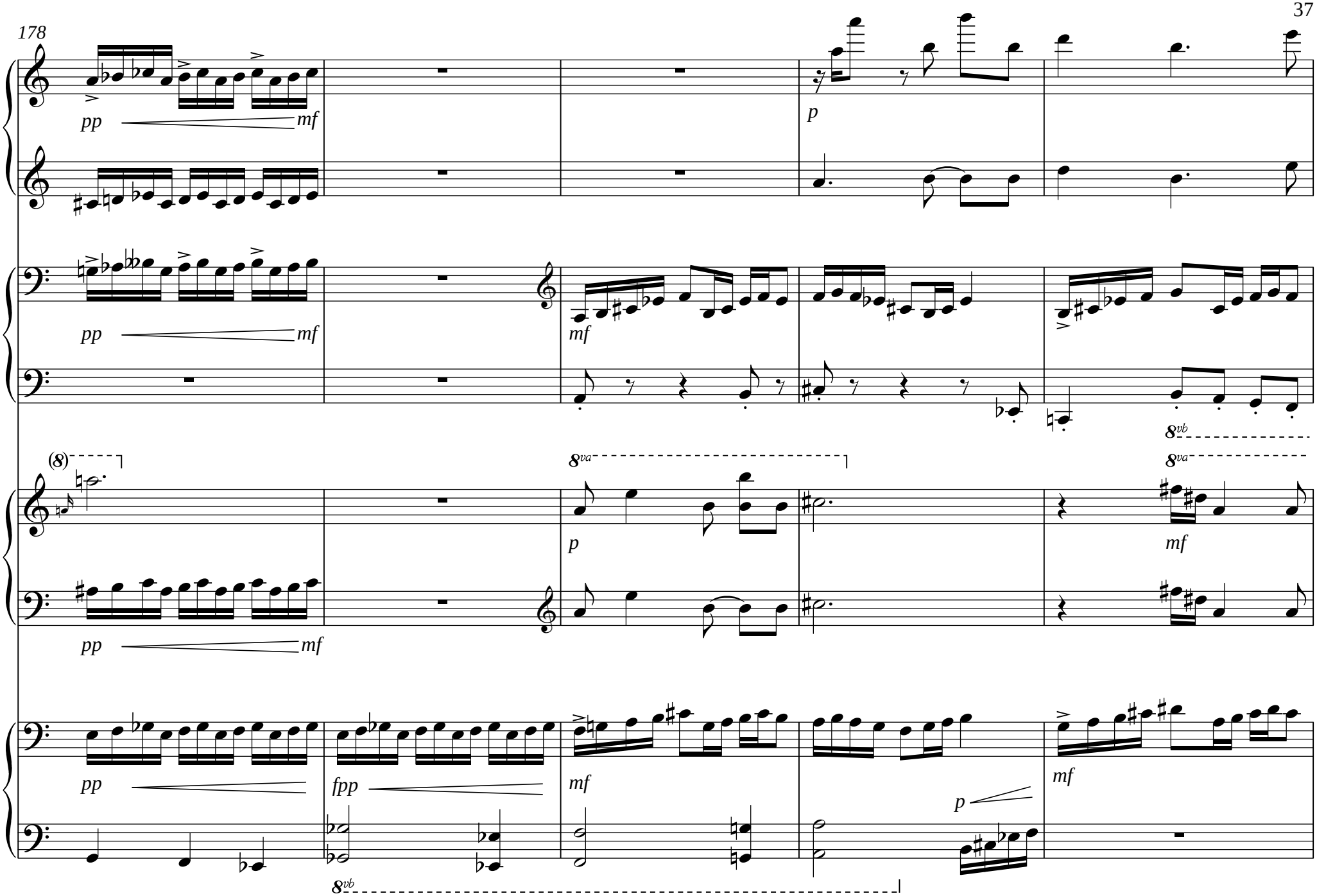
f

pp

fpp

f

178



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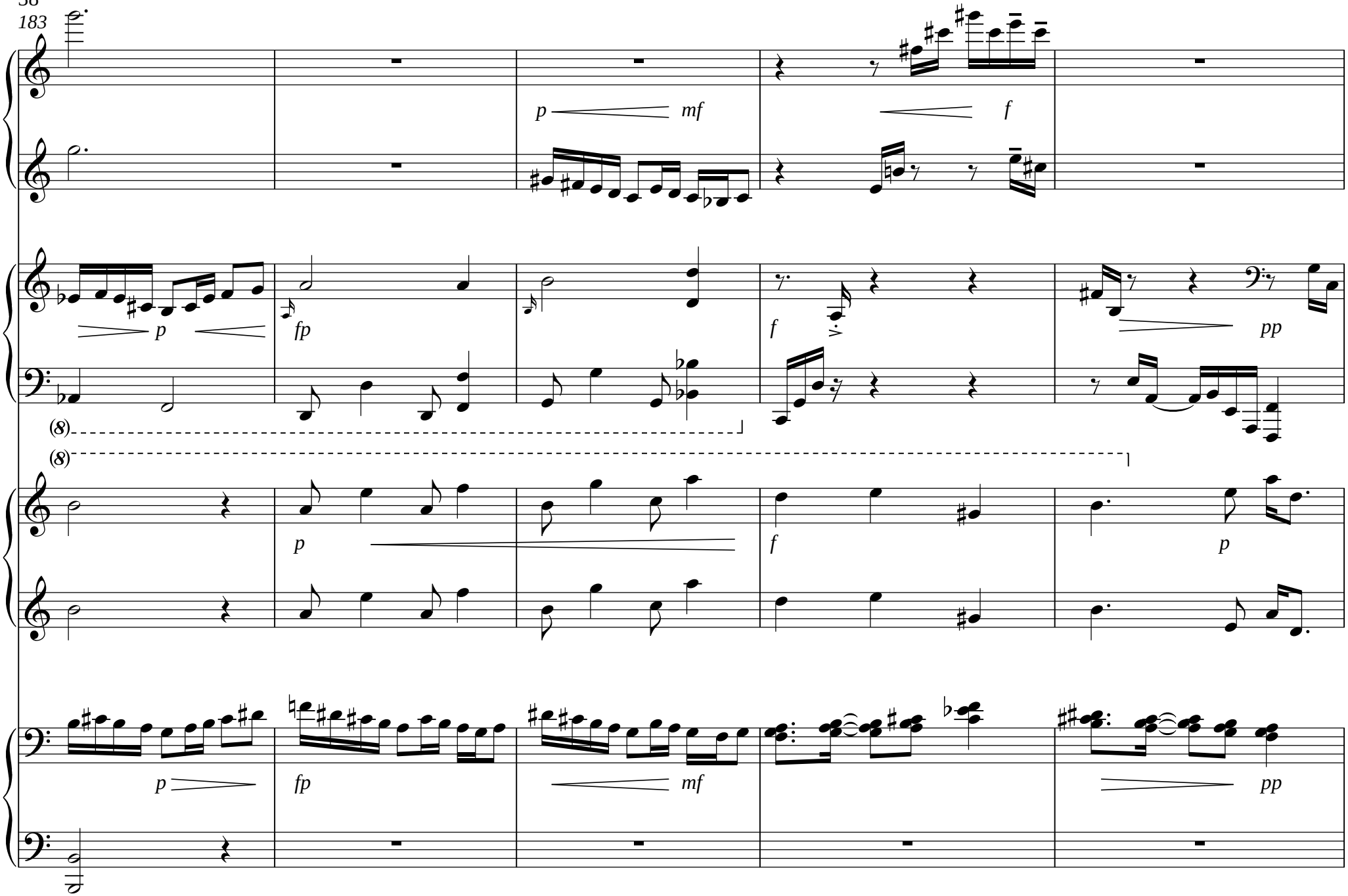
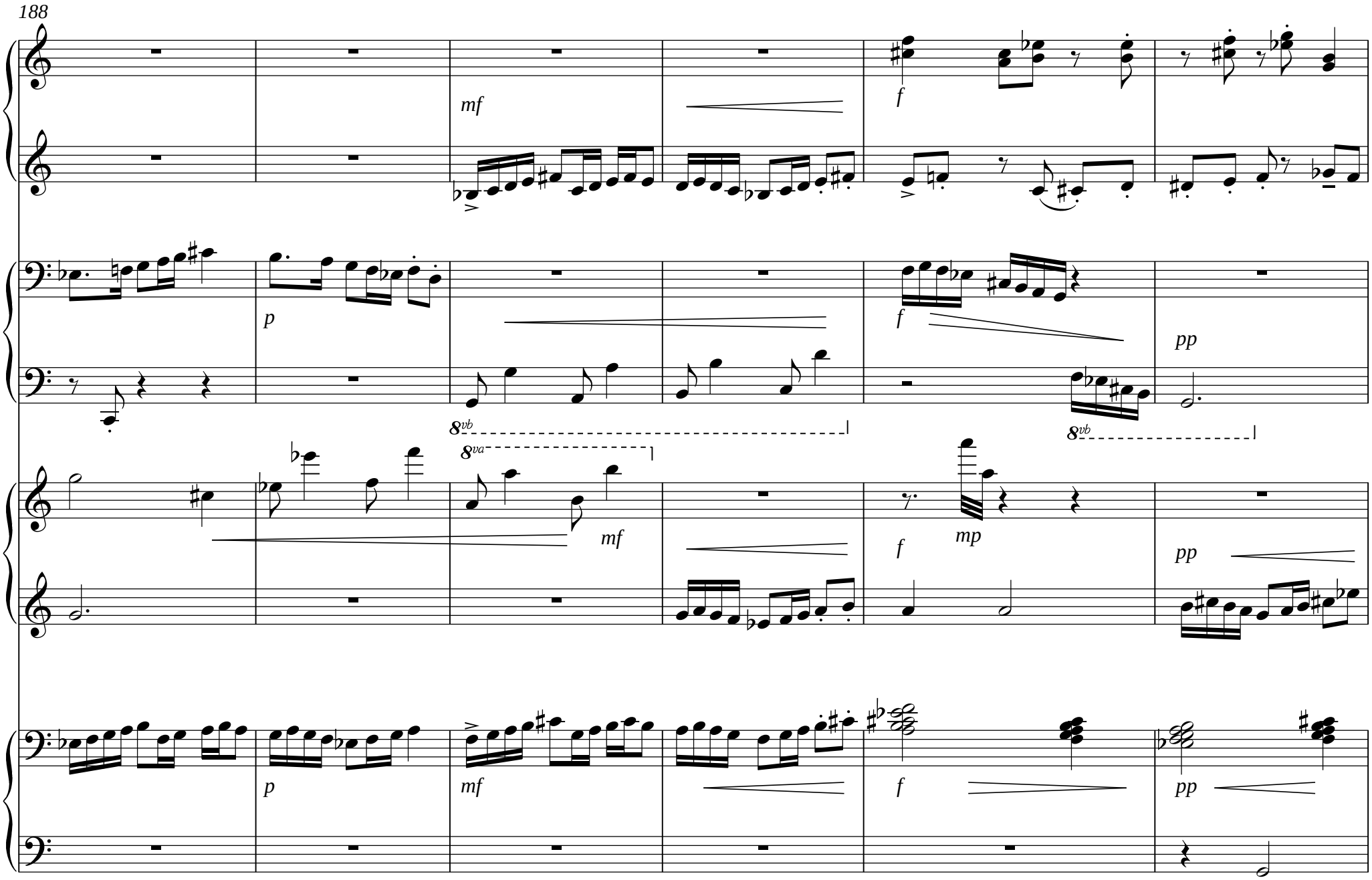
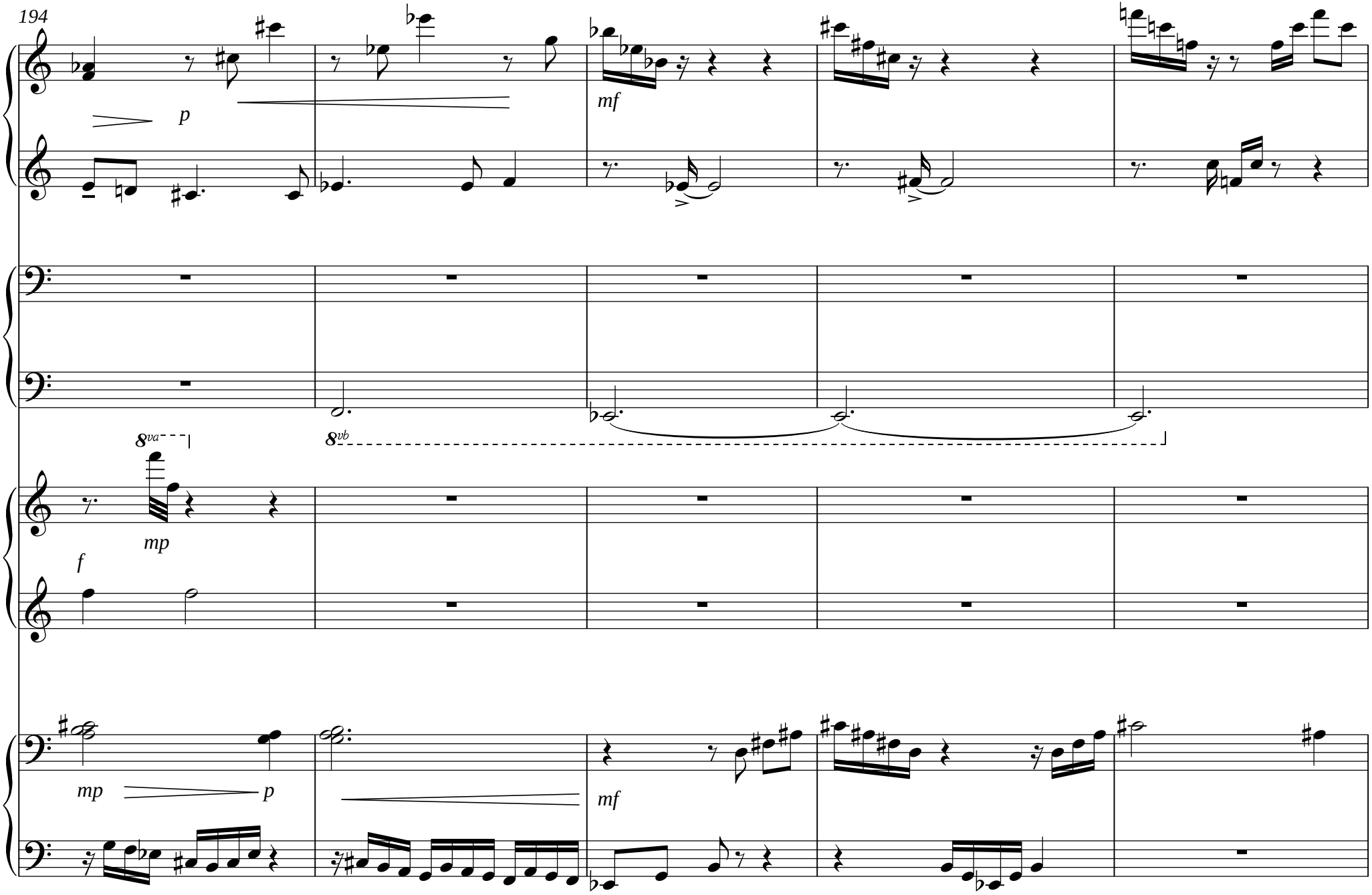
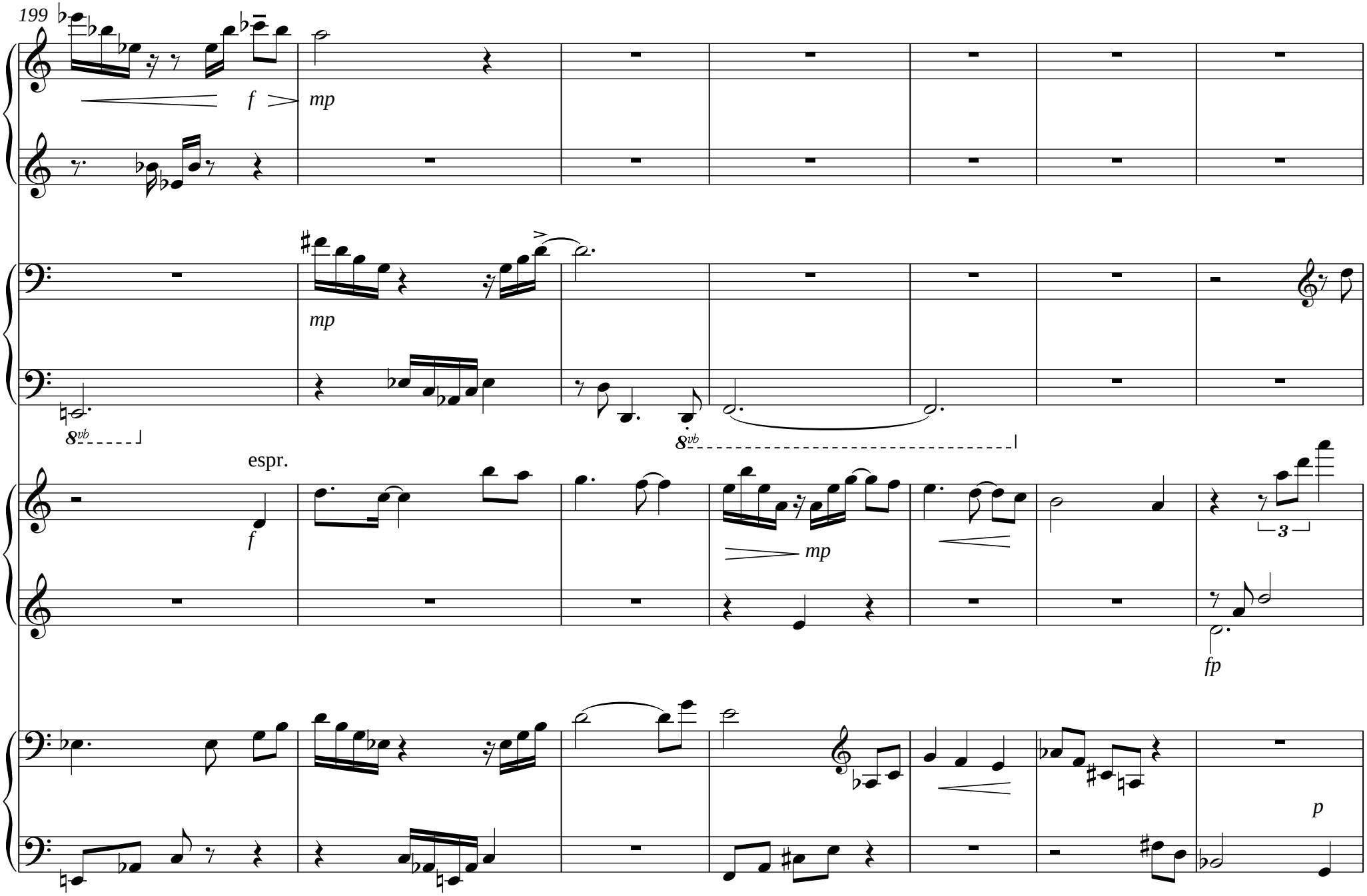
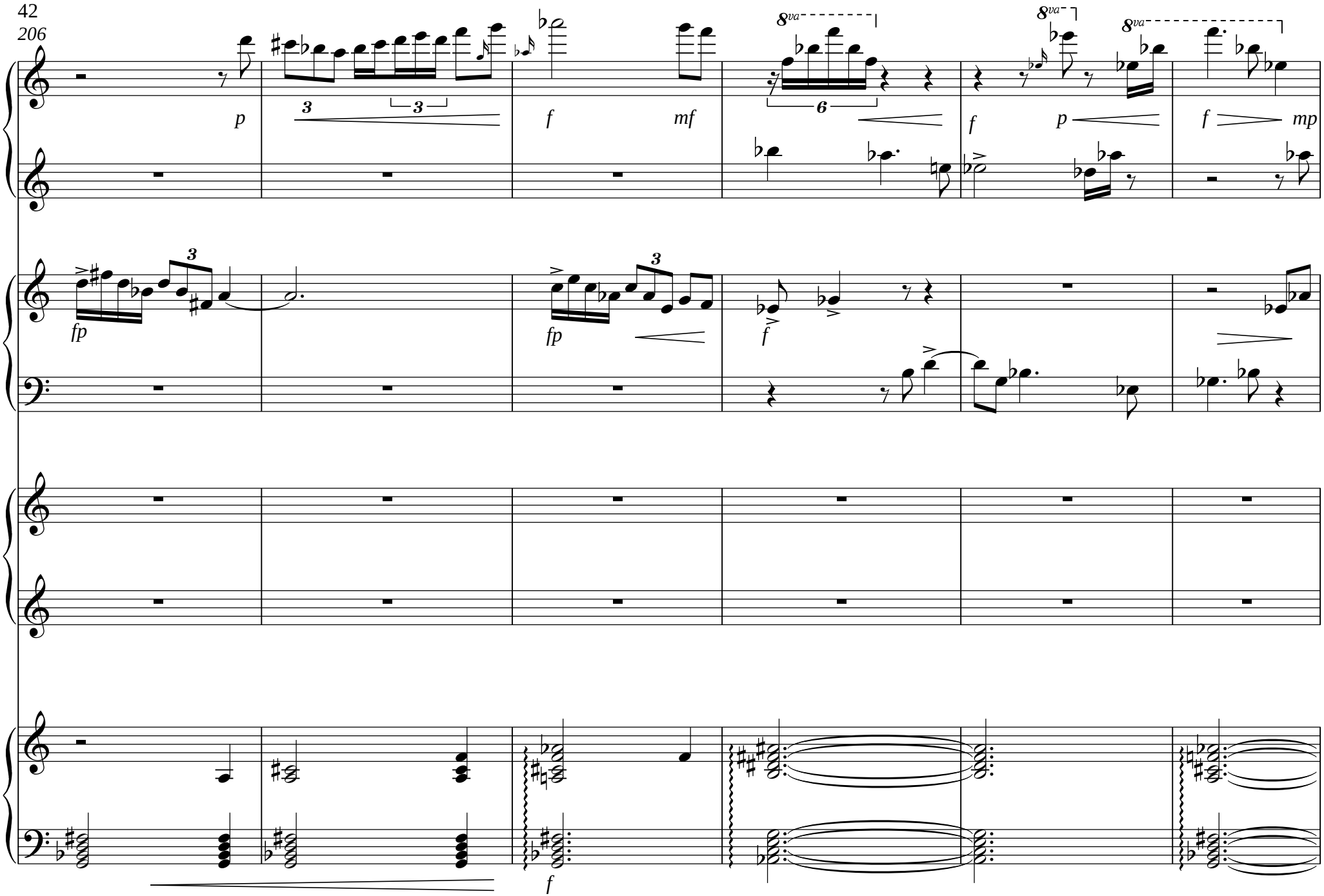


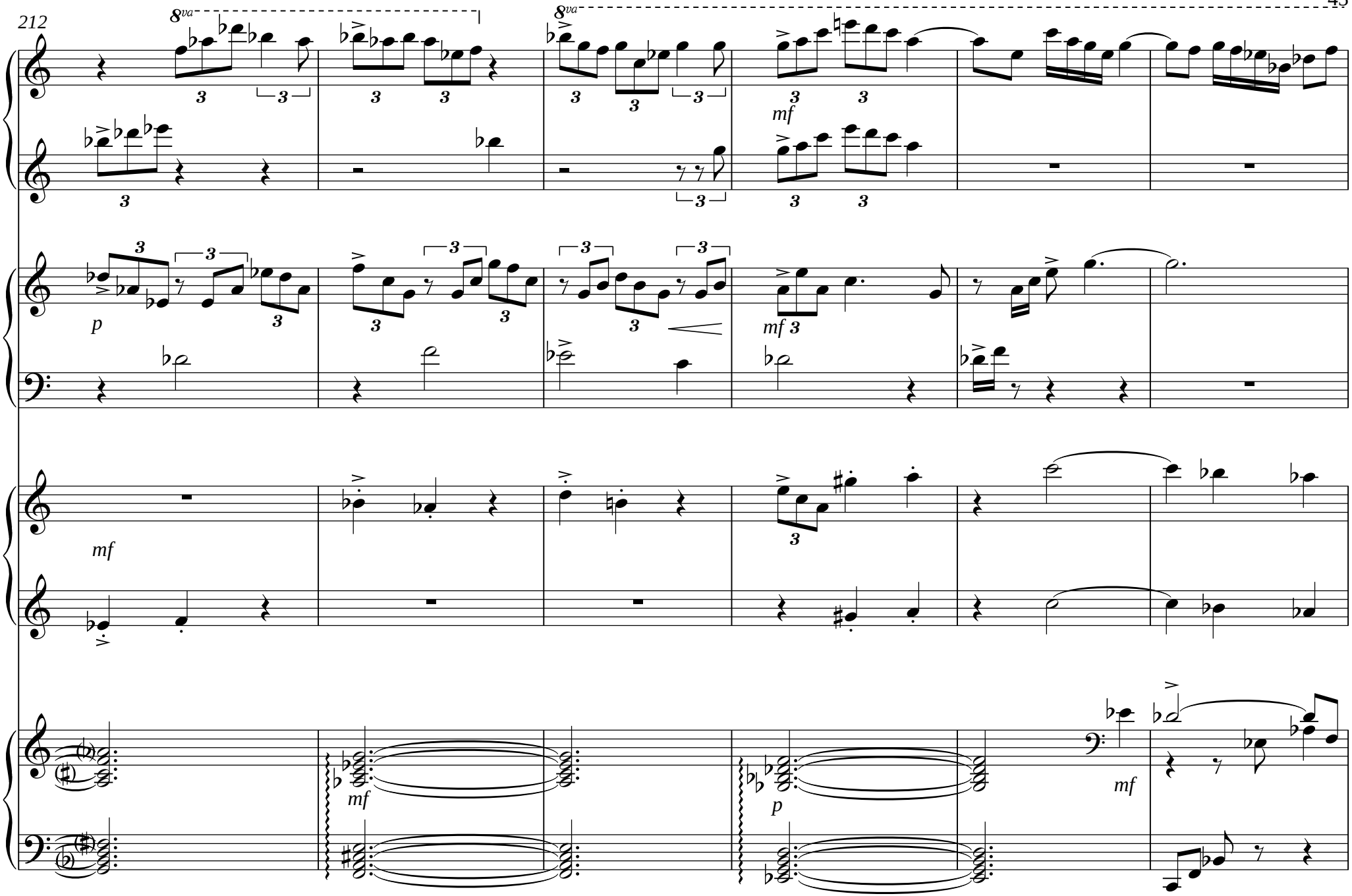

188
mf
f
p
f
pp
8vb
8vb
8va
mf
f
mp
pp
p
mf
f
pp

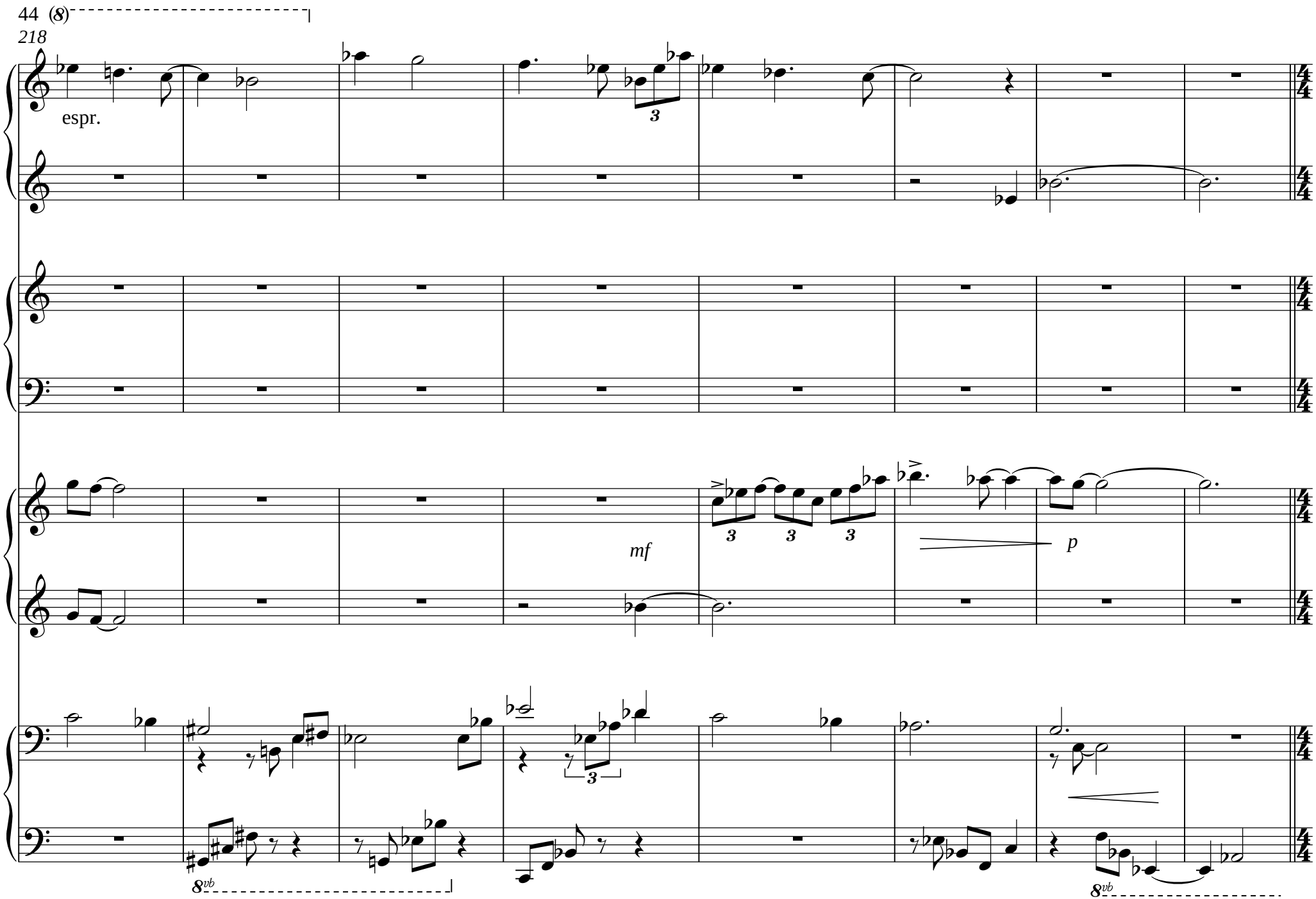

194
p
mf
8va
8vb
mp
f
mp
p
mf

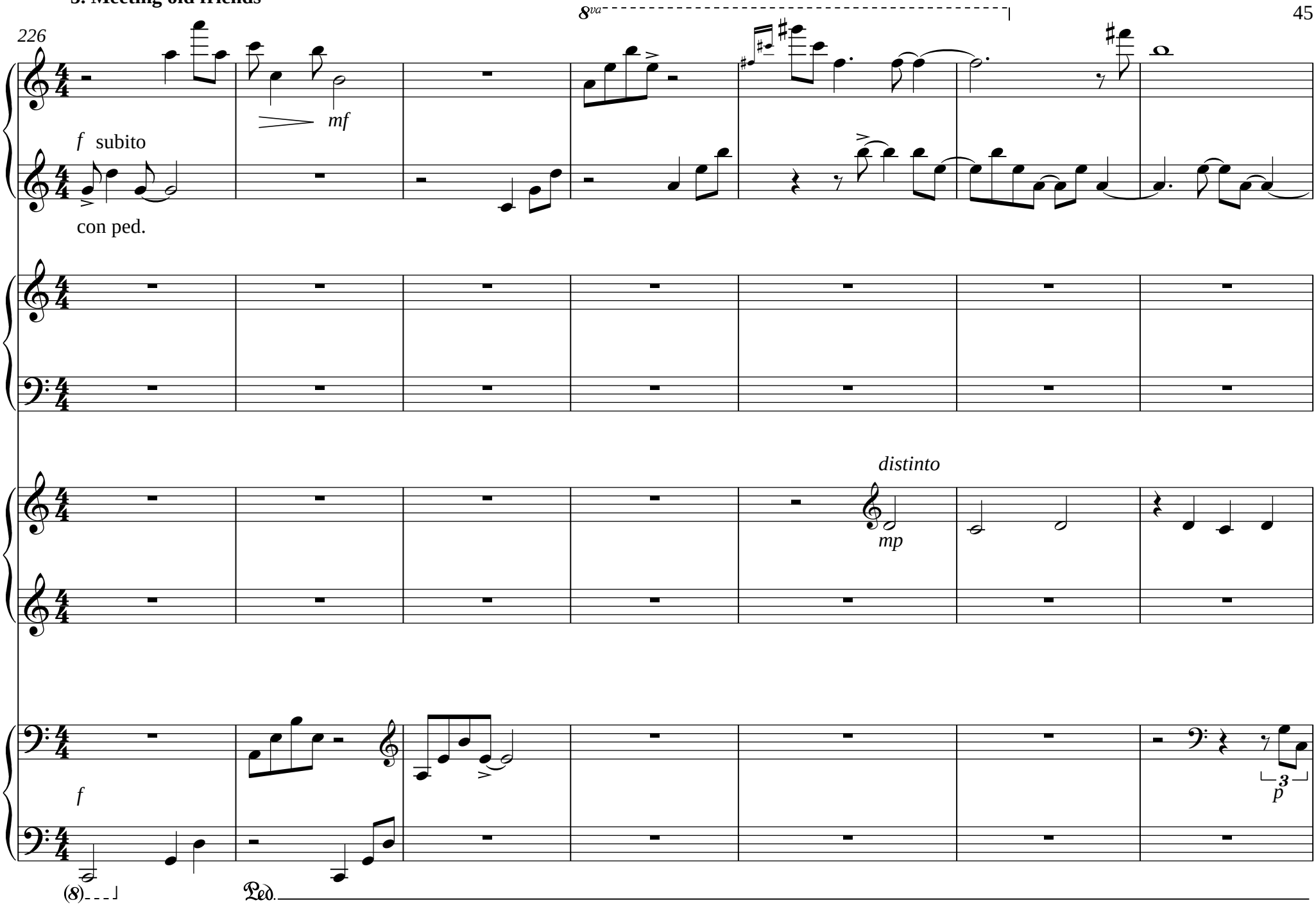

199
f
mp
mp
8vb
8vb
espr.
f
mp
3
fp
p

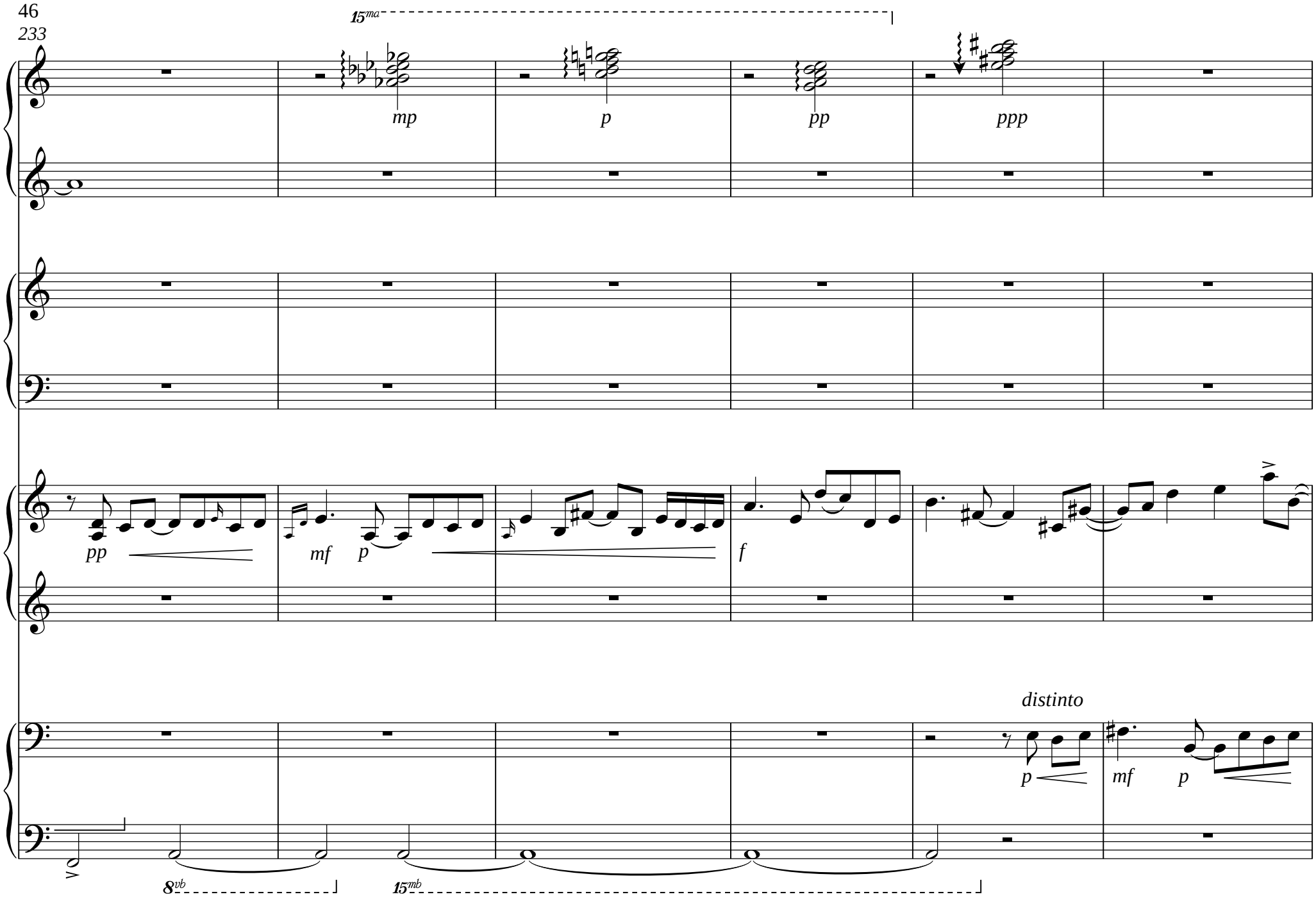
206

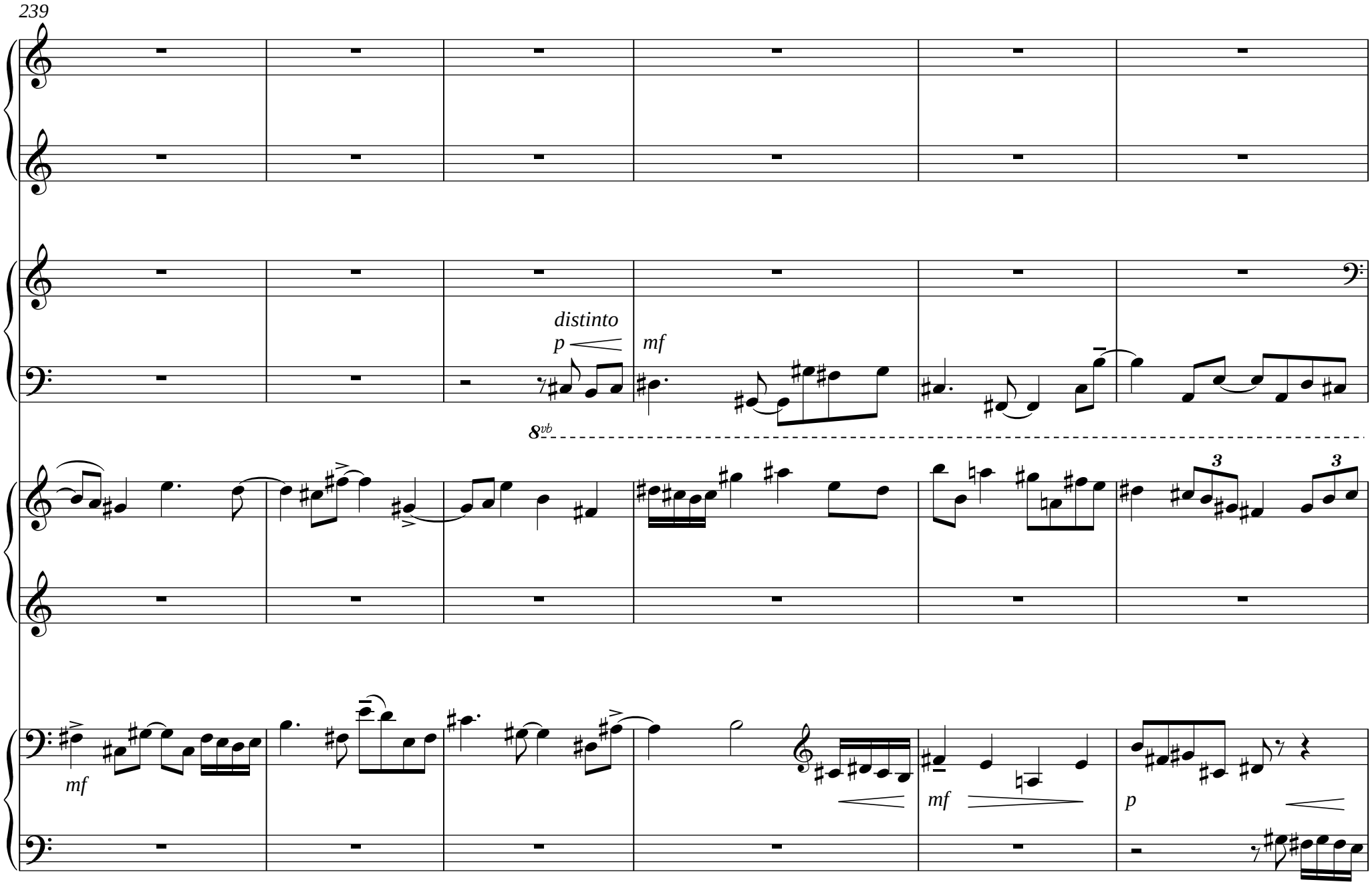


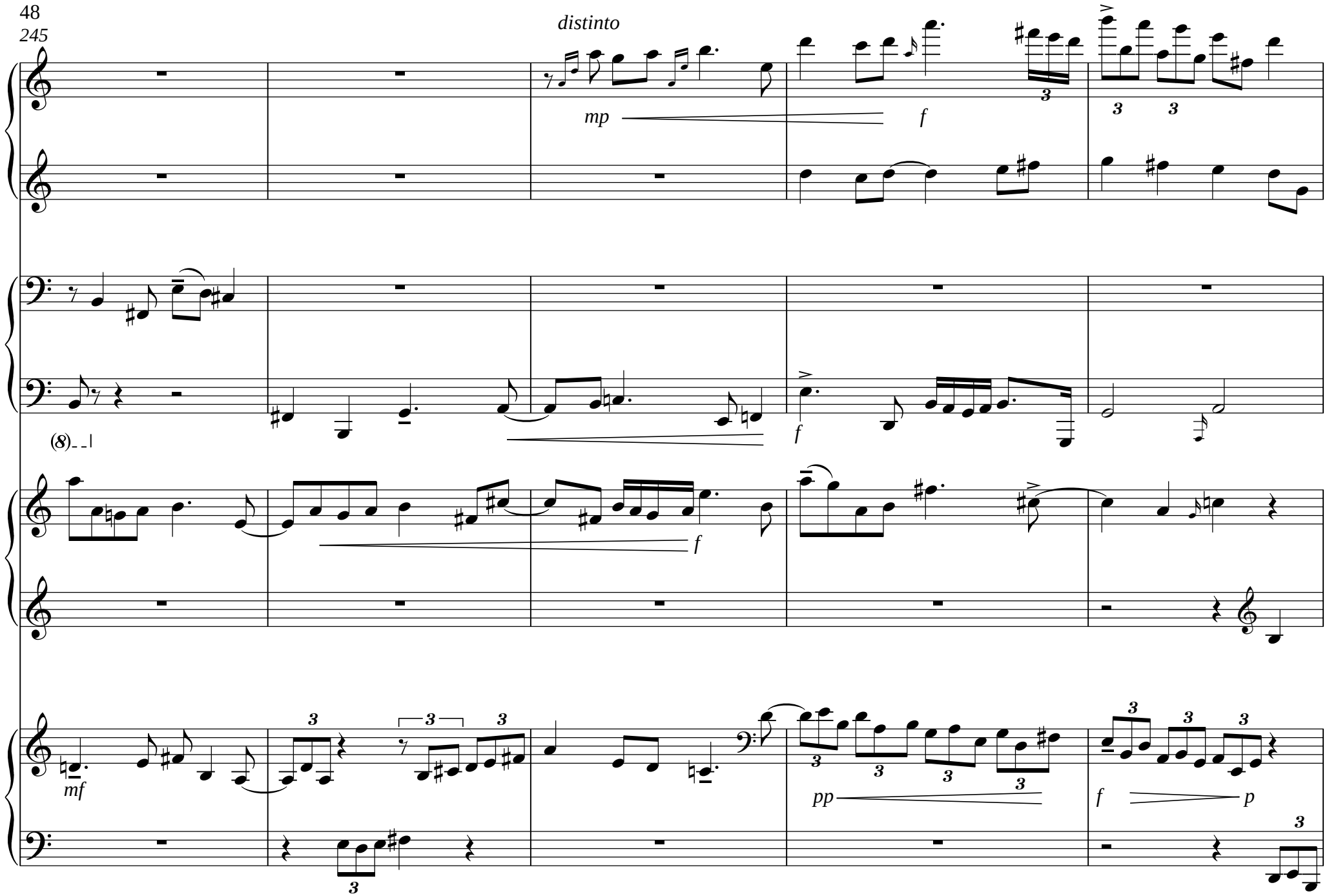

212
8va
8va
mf
p
mf 3
mf
mf
p
mf

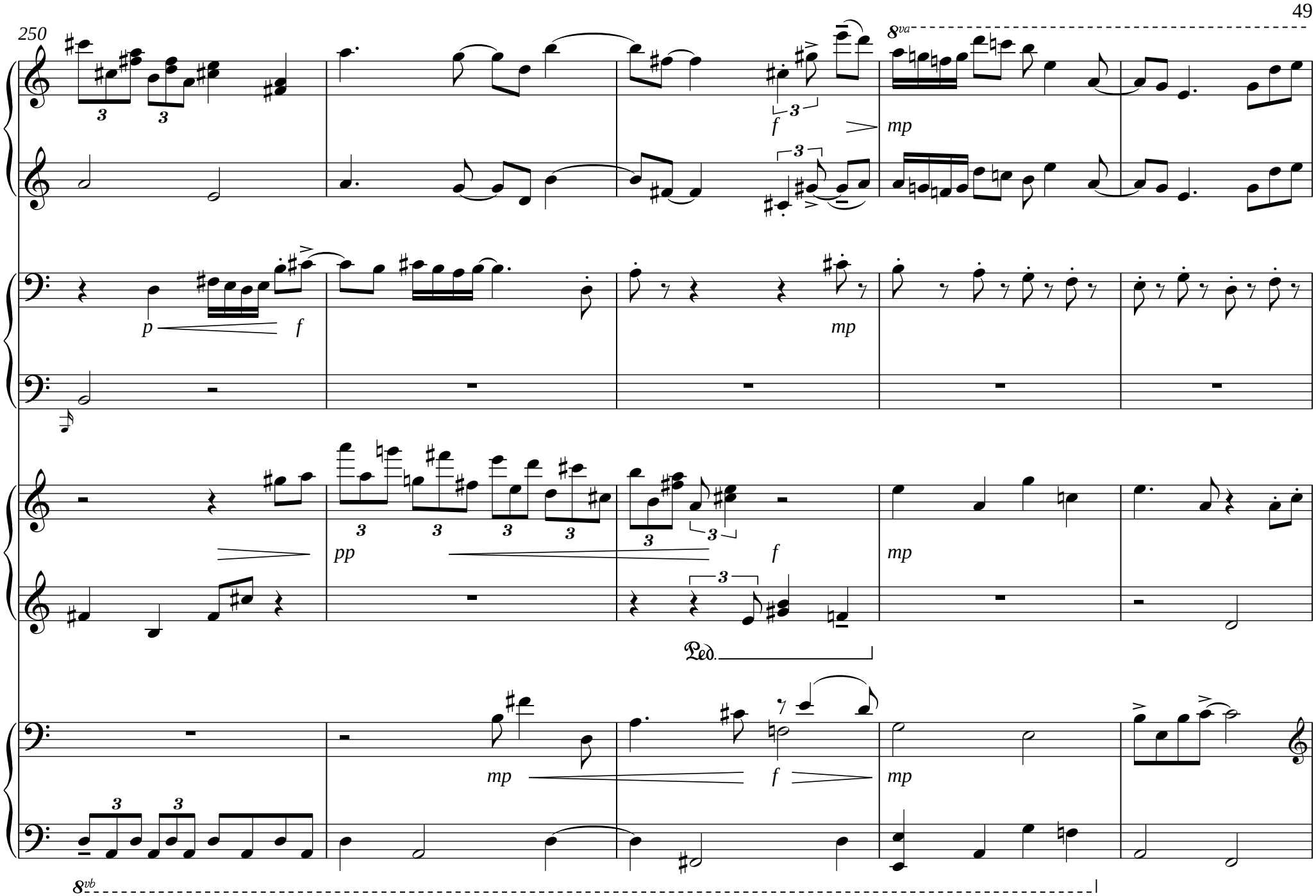

(8)
218
espr.
3
mf
3
3
3
p
8vb
8vb


226
8va
f subito
mf
con ped.
distinto
mp
f
p
(8)
Ped.


15ma
mp
p
pp
ppp
pp
mf
p
f
distinto
p
mf
p
8vb
15mb


239
distinto
p
mf
8vb
3
3
mf
mf
p


245
distinto
mp
f
(8)
f
f
mf
pp
f
p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mp
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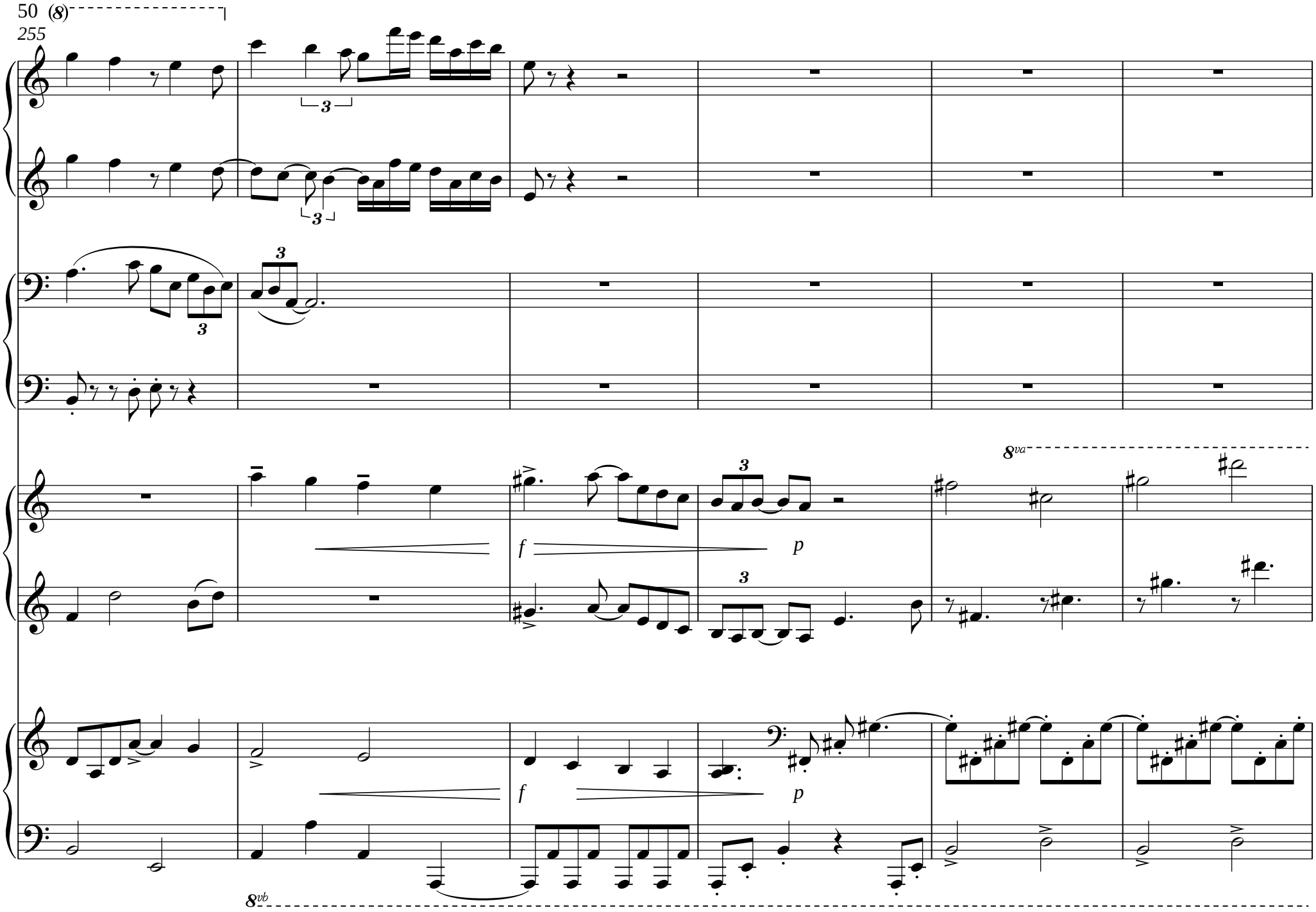
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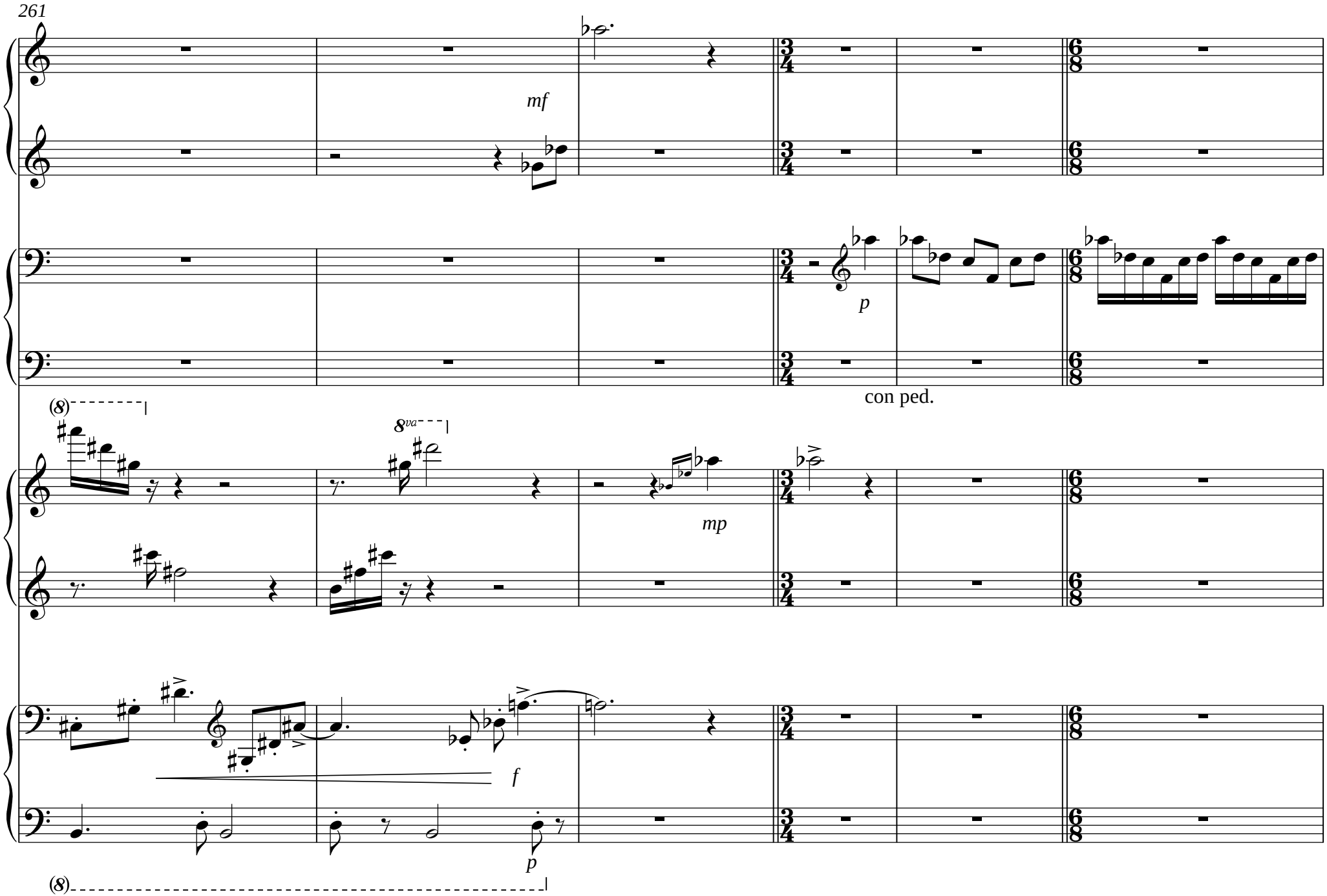
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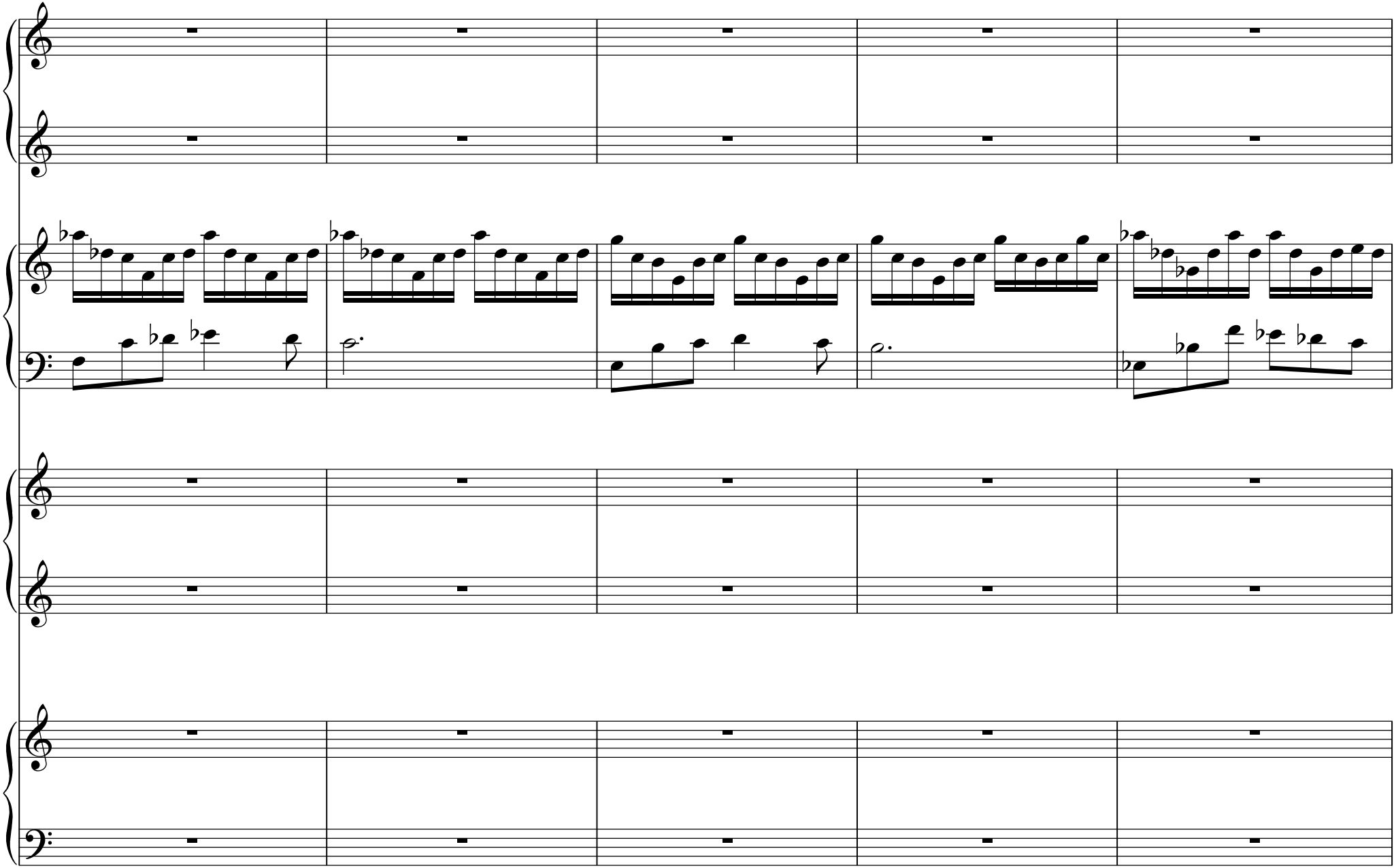
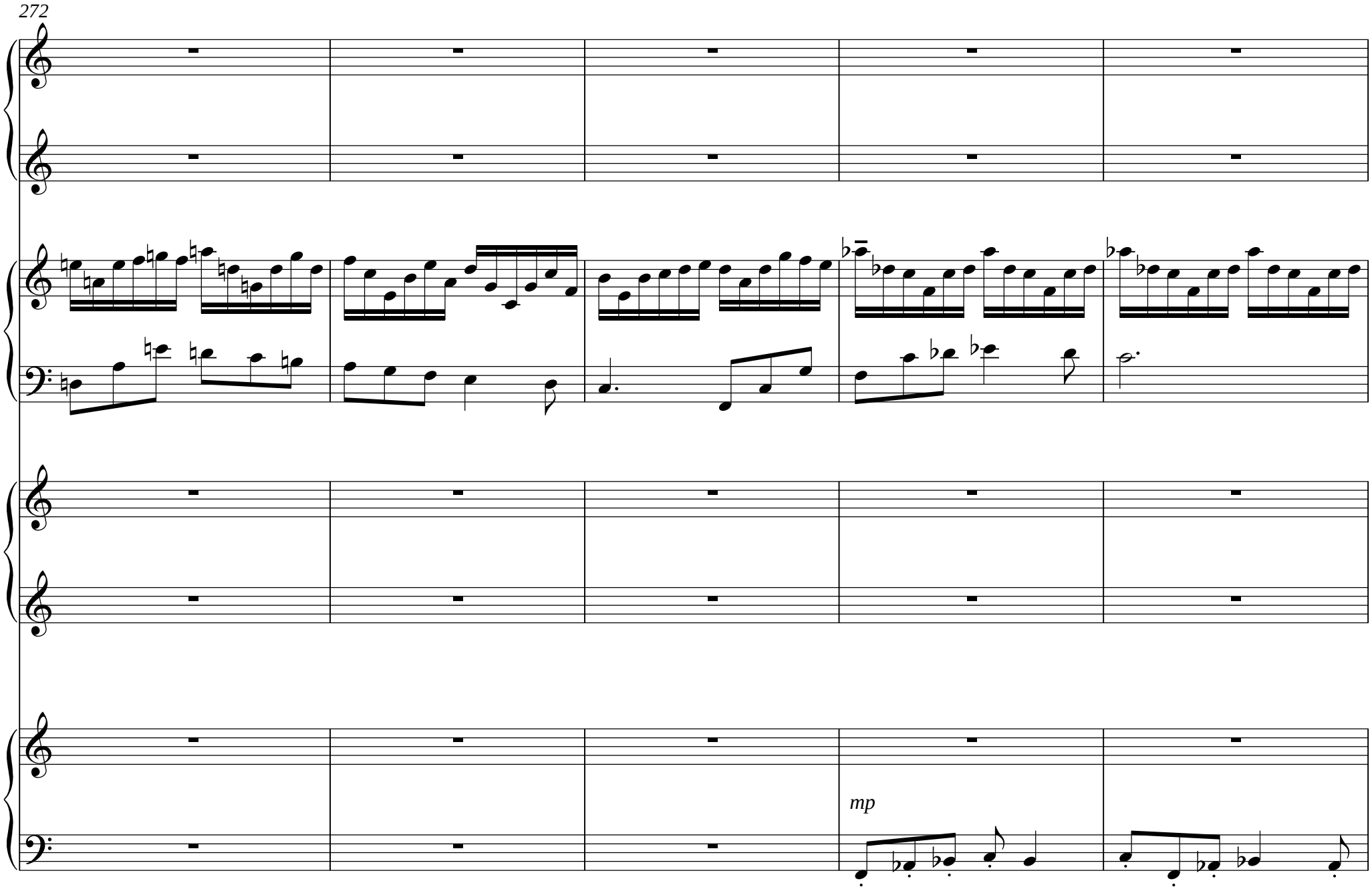
(8)

267

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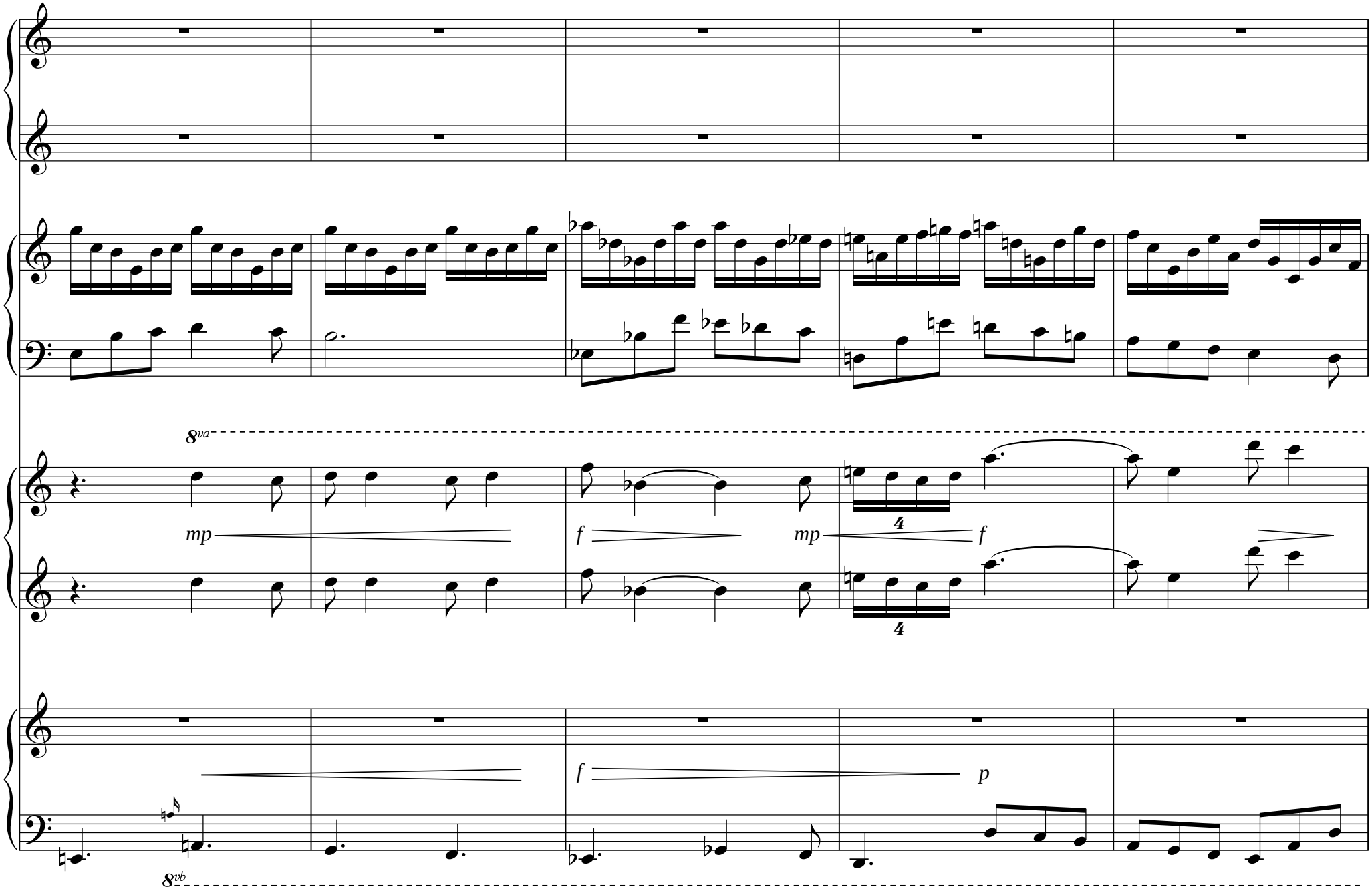
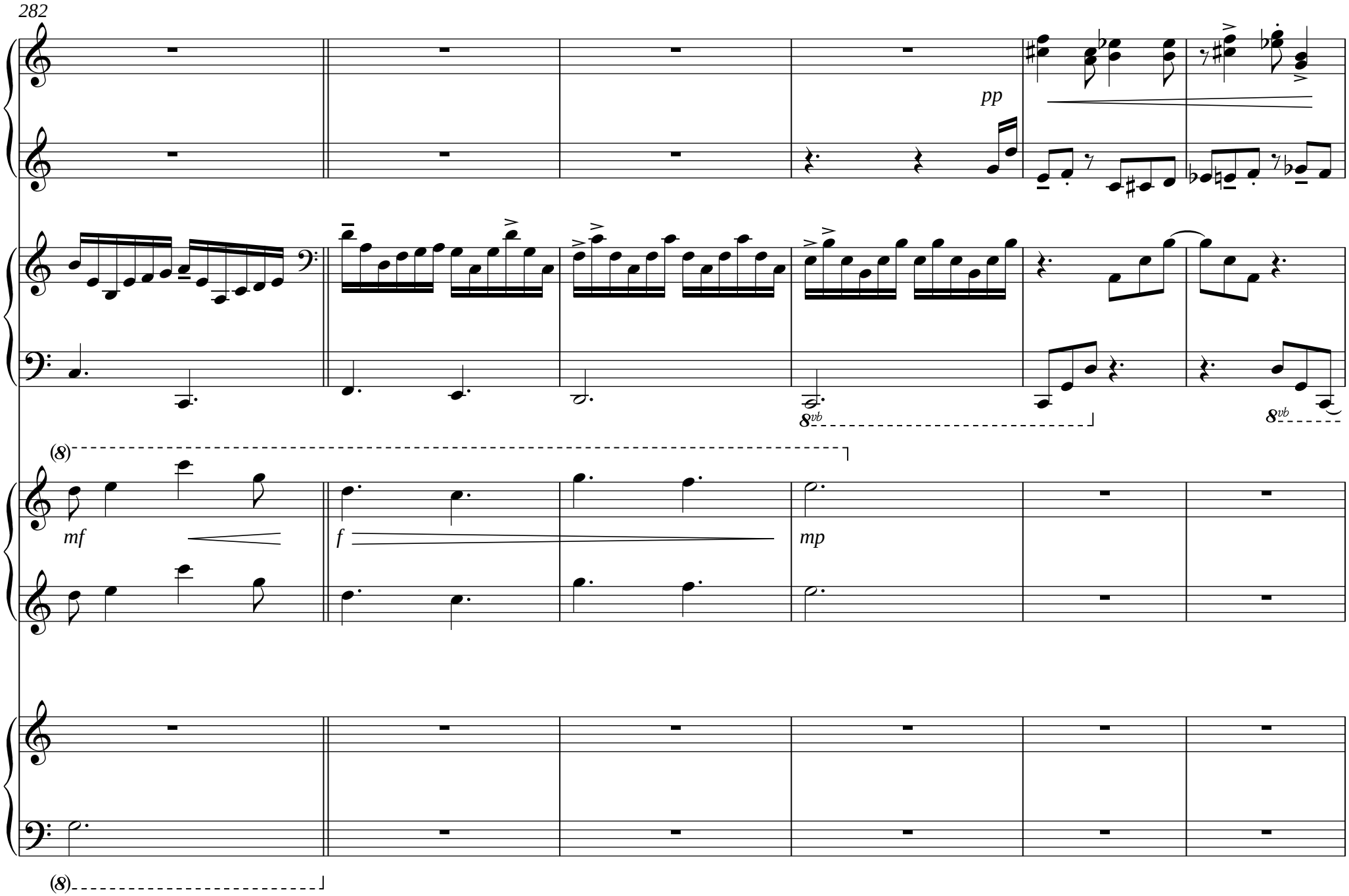
277




282
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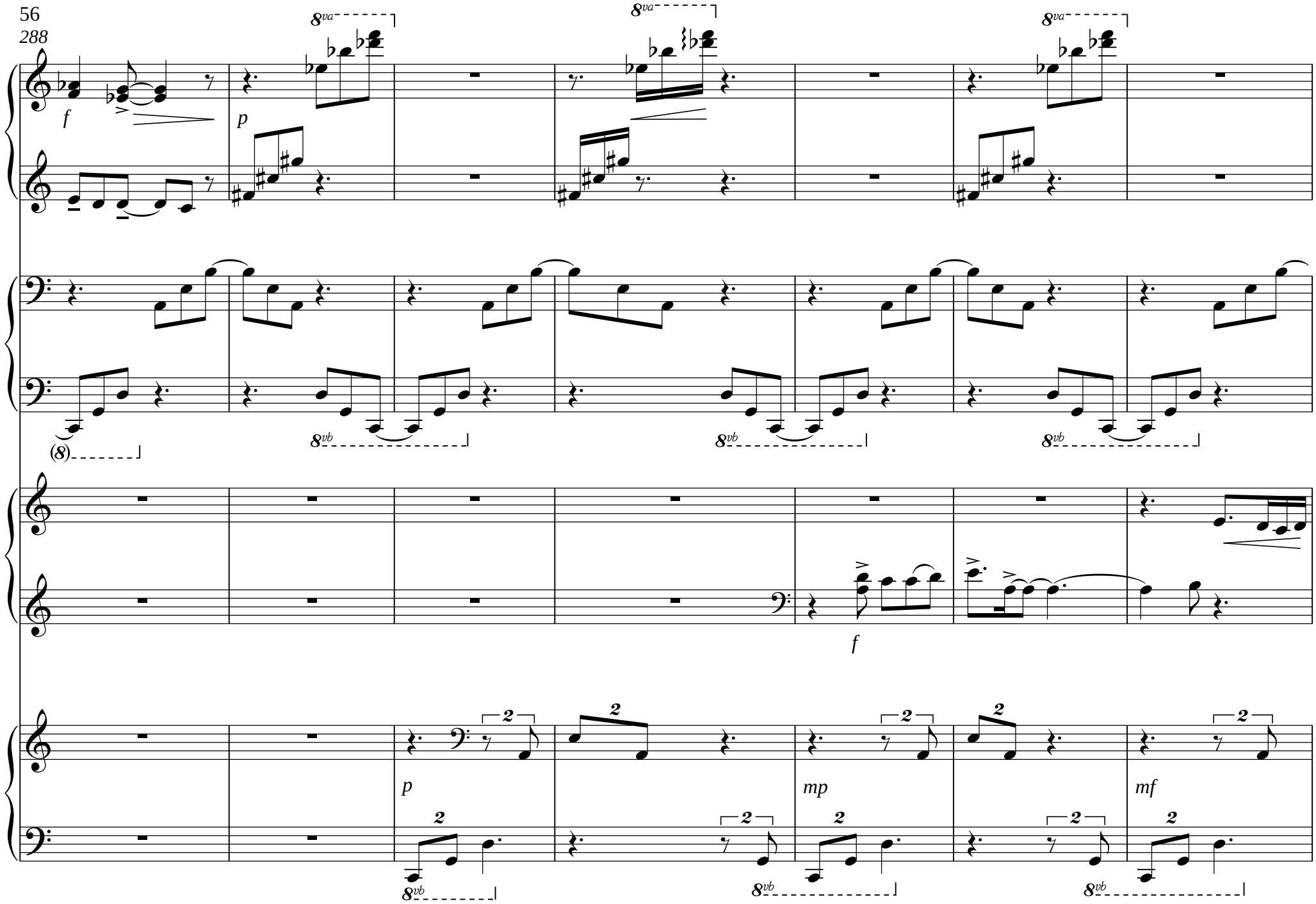
8vb
8vb
(8)
mf
f
mp
(8)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f
p
mp
mf
2
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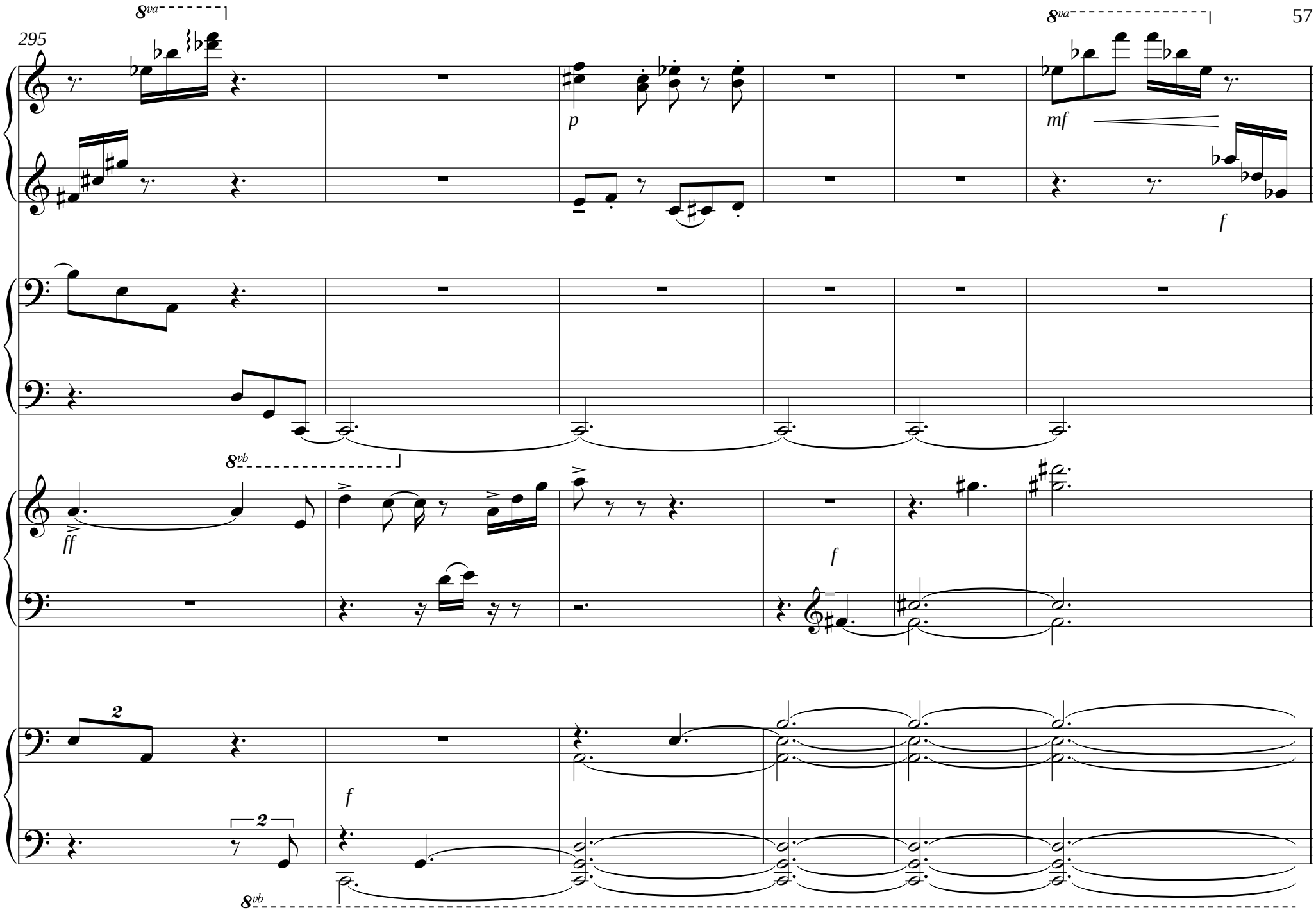
8vb
8vb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mf
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f
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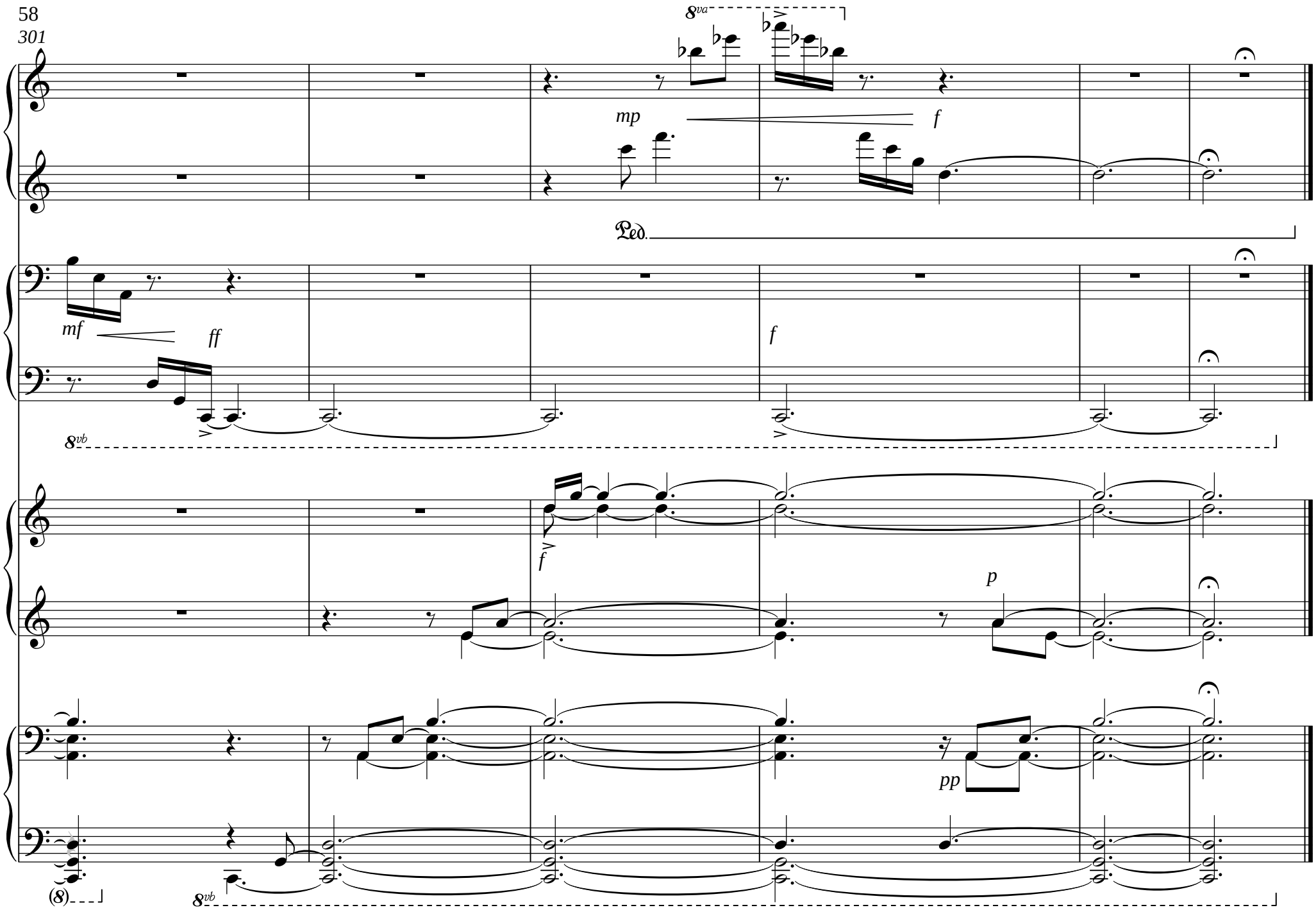
301
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